

## Major Haddad resigns

Major Saad Haddad, the commander of the Israeli-backed Christian militia in south Lebanon, announced that he was resigning for health reasons. In a broadcast he said his resignation had nothing to do with Israel and named Lieutenant Shafiq Barakat as his successor. However, reports in Lebanon said the major was unhappy about the restraint imposed on him by Israel under the terms of the cross-border ceasefire. **Page 5**

## More petrol prices to rise

Motorists face an increase of as much as 4p on a gallon of petrol as more refiners follow the lead and raise their prices in response to a new set of oil producing nations including Britain. **Page 17**

## Beginnings of a spy

Leo Long and Michael Straight, who were approached by Anthony Blunt, and asked to supply information to the Soviet Union, are pictured as members of the Cambridge Union Society in 1937. **Page 3**

## Korchnoi wins game 13

Viktor Korchnoi has won the thirteenth game of his world chess championship match with Anatoly Karpov, the titleholder, who now leads 4-2. The game had been adjourned on Thursday with Korchnoi dominant, and Karpov resigned before play could be resumed. **Page 4**

## Return of former champion jockey

John O'Neill, the former champion National Hunt jockey, who broke his right leg in a fall at Sandown last month, is to resume riding at Wetherby on December 1. O'Neill was the leading rider in the 1977-78 and 1978-79 seasons. **Page 23**

## Campaign to curb GLC

A £200,000 campaign has been launched by leading industrialists and businessmen to challenge the proposals of the Labour-controlled Greater London Council. Called "Keep London Free", it has been organized by Aims of Industry, the right-wing organization. **Page 2**

## Reagan warned of huge deficit

Mr Reagan has been warned by his economic advisers that the United States budget deficit could rise to \$185,000m (£77,000m) by 1984. Meanwhile, unemployment rose half a percentage point to 8 per cent, the highest level since 1975. **Page 17**

## Peace force for Chad soon

The inter-African peacekeeping force for Chad could be installed by the beginning of next week, according to a Lagos report shortly after President Ouéddei of Chad arrived to discuss the details with President Shani Shagari of Nigeria. **Page 5**

## Trudeau tackles Ottawa MPs

Mr Pierre Trudeau, the Canadian Prime Minister, is expected to tackle the Conservative MPs in Parliament in his efforts to bring home the national constitution from Westminster, after winning agreement from most of the provincial premiers. Opposition parties are unhappy with some aspects of the package. **Page 4**

## Court confession

The Lord Chief Justice gave guidance to courts on applying principles relating to admissibility of confessions in criminal proceedings. **Law Report, page 4**

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Letters: On the Dr Arthur case, from Professor J. K. Mason; local government reform, from Professor G. W. Jones and Professor J. D. Stewart; Iranian studies, from Dr F. R. Alchinn.  
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The illusion of town hall independence: Meg Mather's fare in the balance: Geoffrey Smith on the American foreign policy controversy.  
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Christmas countdown, 14, 15

# Anglo-Irish council aims at new impetus

By Julian Haviland, Political Editor

The governments of Britain and the Irish Republic agreed yesterday to establish an Anglo-Irish Intergovernmental Council, which will clearly be seen to give expression to what they call their "unique relationship". They leave their two parliaments to consider at an appropriate time whether there should also be a joint body at parliamentary level which would involve politicians from both countries, including Northern Ireland.

That outcome of the second of the Anglo-Irish summit meetings, established last December, was described by the Prime Minister as "perhaps giving a new impetus to Anglo-Irish co-operation". She thought it would lead to more regular contact between ministers and officials of the two governments. But the new council would not be "a great big new bureaucratic body".

Both governments also agreed to work towards setting up an associated advisory committee with a wide membership seeking economic, social, and cultural co-operation.

Dr Garret FitzGerald, Prime Minister of the Irish Republic, said: "We are moving step by step towards a new relationship." He and Mrs Margaret Thatcher agreed, he said, that a solution in Northern Ireland could be found only in the context of a wider Anglo-Irish relationship.

No large claims were made by either side after yesterday's talks at Downing Street which Mrs Thatcher described as warm, friendly, practical, constructive, and workmanlike. Dr FitzGerald said they were extremely cordial.

Mrs Thatcher will make a statement in Parliament on Tuesday, her earliest opportunity, and thus avoid the charge directed at her after her meeting in Dublin with Mr Charles Haughey last year that she and her Government had something to hide. She has also decided, apparently at Dr FitzGerald's urging, to publish in full next week the proposals and the officials which were set in train at the Dublin summit.

Only the study on security questions will be kept back from publication.

The two governments' differing views of Northern Ireland's future, which Mrs Thatcher and the communiqué put out after the talks, Mrs Thatcher had affirmed, and Dr FitzGerald had agreed, it said, that any change in Northern Ireland's constitutional status would require the consent of the majority there.

Mrs Thatcher, speaking after the talks, said that the law guaranteed that there could be no change in Northern Ireland's constitution without the consent of the Northern Ireland majority. She was not departing one word from that position.

"I hope I have made that clear again and again." But the core of the agreement is the intergovernmental council, which will clearly be seen to give expression to what they call their "unique relationship". They leave their two parliaments to consider at an appropriate time whether there should also be a joint body at parliamentary level which would involve politicians from both countries, including Northern Ireland.

The communiqué was vague, but noted the possibility of co-operation on gas and electricity supplies.

□ Roman Catholic politicians in Northern Ireland welcomed the creation of the new council but expressed disappointment that it would not have any elected representation (Christianity Today writes from Belfast). There is no doubt that Parliament in Dublin would approve the idea of setting up an elected Anglo-Irish assembly.

Mr John Hume, leader of the Social Democratic and Labour Party, said it was clear that unionists had nothing to fear from the new structure. There was no betrayal.

Opposition to the idea from the Official Unionists was muted, possibly because they had expected worse.

The Alliance Party said the Government should have set up such a body 30 or 40 years ago. It welcomed the fact that there was no threat to the constitutional position of Northern Ireland.

□ The Rev Ian Paisley, leader of the Democratic Unionist Party, said he would wreck the proposals. "With firm confidence we will go forward, regardless of the consequences, to bring down this fresh attempt to hand us over to the enemy."

Sinn Féin said that the intergovernmental council "will not diminish British influence in Ireland" but will actually increase its influence in the 26 counties, where attempts will be made to smother the cross-border collaboration and the drive against "republicanism".

Communique, page 2  
Leading article, page 7.

## Haig accused of 'cool it' gibe at Carrington

From Our Own Correspondent, Washington, Nov 5

Mr Alexander Haig, the Secretary of State, has expressed concern over remarks made by Lord Carrington, the British Foreign Secretary, about the Saudi Arabian peace plan. However, British sources in Washington have denied a report in the New York Times that Mr Haig had lodged a protest when he held a private meeting with Sir Nicholas Henderson, the British ambassador, on Wednesday night.

According to the report, Mr Haig had subsequently told a group of American Jewish leaders that he had urged Lord Carrington to "cool it". According to a transcript made by a participant at that meeting, Mr Haig said to the ambassador: "It is one thing for a fellow to sit on the sidelines and indulge in theology and to establish goals that represent the perfect in contrast to the good and achievable and the pragmatic."

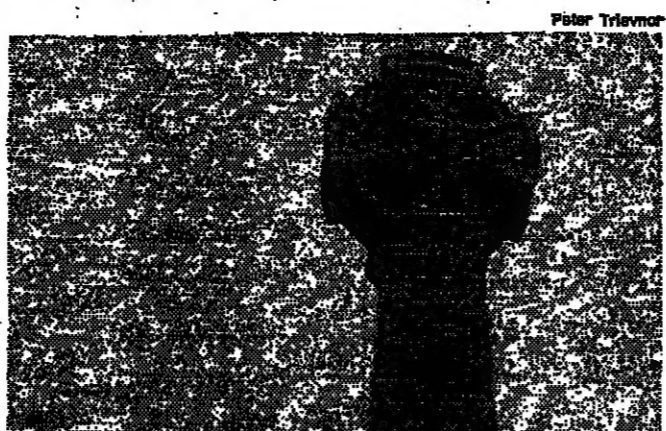
"It is another thing to have the responsibility to do it. It's a very luxurious position for our European friends to be in. They can make their own observations without responsibility for the consequences." He added, according to the transcript: "And I would, say."

## Scandinavians to boycott Red Square parade

From Michael Binyon, Moscow, Nov 5

The ambassadors of Sweden, Denmark and Norway are to boycott tomorrow's annual military parade in Red Square in protest at the discovery of nuclear material on board the Soviet submarine that ran aground in Swedish territorial waters. The Swedish authorities allowed the submarine to sail away today after detaining it for nine days.

Mr Carl de Geer, the Swedish Ambassador, announced yesterday that he would not be present at the parade marking the sixty-fourth anniversary of the Russian revolution, nor would he attend the reception in the Kremlin the evening of the Norwegian and Danish col-



Philip Travers

Remembrance Day tomorrow will be a deeply reflective occasion for Mr Jack Pearce (above), of Chaddleworth, Berkshire, as it has been for the past 60 years. In 1921 Mr Pearce, who is 88, returned to his village near Newbury to find that because he had been given up for dead in the First World War, his name had been inscribed on the village war memorial.

Mr Pearce and his wife Ida, aged 85, live in a small thatched cottage 50 yards from the 20-foot high stone memorial. He does not know who inscribed his name there.

He was wounded in his first battle in which his brothers, Tom and Douglas, were killed. Jack recovered and was sent to the trenches again. He was wounded again, and returned to Britain.

As one of the few surviving Old Contemptibles in the area, he will take great pride tomorrow in marching to the memorial with those who knew of him and his kind only through the history books.

## Old Contemptible marches on 60 years after 'death'

By Tony Samstag

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Lord Carrington went further than that, saying that the Saudi plan was "positive and a sound foundation for further steps". He has also emphasized the need for a political solution to the Arab problem, adding that it was his "firm belief that no good will come of pretending that the Palestine Liberation Organization can be ignored."

The remarks by Lord Carrington, who has been visiting Saudi Arabia in his capacity as chairman of the Council of Ministers of the European Community, have provoked a sharp Israeli retort. Mr Menachem Begin, the Israeli Prime Minister, has said he would not allow European countries to take part in the Sinai peace-keeping force if they endorsed a plan which deviates from the Camp David accord.

only be protected if union members cooperated in sharing the work available.

"If we are sincere we must take the initiative in reducing overtime. It must be made clear to the board that if it comes to a choice between job and overtime we would choose jobs," he said.

The unions and the RR board are to meet Mr David Howell, Secretary of State for Transport on December 16 for talks on the industry's future.

The unions are likely to warn the Transport Secretary that current negotiations with British Rail on productivity will be jeopardized unless clear Government commitments are given on investment.

RR said it believed that pro-

vided progress could be made on the productivity discussions flowing from August's pay settlement it believed it could reach an agreement on reducing overtime currently averaging 10.3 hours a week.

The unions with some support from the board are likely to complain on December 16 that despite the progress made on productivity negotiations so far there has still been no clear signal on increasing investment. In particular the unions had hoped for an early go-ahead for the £50m electrification of East Anglian lines as a preliminary to the full £70m programme over the next 20 years which RR wants to see.

## NUR warning on overtime cuts

By Donald Macintyre, Labour Correspondent

British Rail has been warned by the industry's biggest union that it will tell its members to start cutting overtime and end day working unilaterally unless a reduction can be agreed over the next six months.

The National Union of Railwaymen wants talks with the RR board on a detailed timetable for reducing overtime from next April aimed at ensuring that the current negotiations on productivity do not result in a net loss of jobs from the industry.

Mr Sidney Weighell, the union's general secretary and one of the IUC General Committee's most ardent supporters of legislation to curb overtime said yesterday that jobs could

## Tory rebels poised to vote against rates Bill

By David Walker

The Local Government Finance Bill, which will compel local authorities to hold referendums before levying rates above a ceiling to be fixed by the Government, was given a formal first reading in the Commons yesterday.

Mr Michael Heseltine, the Secretary of State for the Environment, faces opposition to the Bill not only from the Labour benches, but from a group of about 20 dissident Conservative backbenchers, who may be prepared to vote against it.

Their view, shared by almost all councils, is that the Bill represents an unwarranted interference by central government in local authority affairs, stripping them of their autonomy.

The operation of the scheme, intended to come into effect from April 1, 1982, depends on the margins of tolerance which Mr Heseltine will set. He indicated at a press conference last night that only a small number of councils—more than 10 but less than 100—would be forced to hold referendums. The intention was to trap one of the ostentatiously high-spending councils.

Those councils are mostly Labour-run, city authorities; the Greater London Council; the Inner London Education Authority; most of the inner London boroughs; some of the metropolitan counties, such as South Yorkshire; and a handful of district councils.

Mr Heseltine said: "I have been engaged for two-and-a-half years as the first Secretary of State expected to reduce the levels of local authority current expenditure that have risen inexorably since 1950. I face up to the fact that the traditional relationship of cooperation (between council and the government) no longer exists."

As Mr Heseltine was speaking, another Tory MP joined the backbench revolt. Mr Terence Higgins, MP for Worthing and a former Treasury minister, said: "The proposed extension of referendums into the field of taxation is unnecessary and a highly dangerous precedent. There is every case for restraining pre-emptive local councils, but referendums are not the right way to do it."

Mr Patrick Cormack, MP for Staffordshire, South West, who has already warned publicly that he may oppose the measure in the division lobby, said in a speech in his constituency last night: "Even at this late stage, the Cabinet should think again and withdraw this extraordinary Bill."

His proposals are a non-agricultural reduction of the Tory tradition in local government, and of the off-stated Tory belief that the gentleman in Whitehall does not know best. They amount to a massive centralisation of power of major constitutional significance. If implemented, they would kill local government as we know it and seriously weaken the whole democratic process."

Local councils had a far better record on curbing expenditure, he said.

The heart of the Government's plan is a calculation by civil servants of each council's Grant Related Expenditure Assessment (GREA). Loosely based on population figures, it estimates a council's required spending on buses, housing, social workers, classroom chalk and so on. Intended originally as a guide, the GREA has become a means of control.

Mr Noel Hopworth, director of the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy, and a fairly disinterested witness, said yesterday that the GREAs were a flawed element in the system. "They could shift in a volatile way and would need, soon, to be revised as the results of the 1981 census become available."

He predicted: "The whole system of local government as we have known it will soon start to collapse; not necessarily next year, but soon. When the Conservatives lose power you will find the multipliers they have built in being fiddled in a completely different way by other hands."

Next week, the Association of Metropolitan Authorities plans to intensify its campaign of advertisements against the Bill. The campaign, which will cost £500,000, is to be supplemented by a number of local petitions.

Anti-Livingstone drive, page 2  
Parliamentary report, page 3  
Leading article, page 7.

## US seeks deal on nuclear weapons

From Nicholas Ashford, Washington, Nov 6

The United States plans to put forward what it regards as dramatic proposals on reducing nuclear forces in Europe when talks with the Soviet Union on medium-range missiles open in Geneva at the end of this month.

A decision on the proposals will be reached at a meeting of NATO's special consultative group in Brussels on November 20.

According to a senior Administration official, the American proposals, closely worked out with NATO partners, will challenge the Russians to make substantial reductions in their theatre nuclear forces.

The first outline of what these proposals will involve has been made available to The Times. The United States will put forward a proposal to the Soviet Union which will range from what is known as "the zero option" to the full deployment in Western Europe of 572 cruise and Pershing 2 missiles.

The official said the United States was entering the negotiations with the intention of achieving a substantial reduction in the number of intermediate range Soviet nuclear warheads ranged against Western Europe. In particular, the United States wants the Soviet Union to reduce to 300 or below the number of warheads carried on its SS20 missiles.

The Soviet Union is understood to have deployed at least 250 of the triple-warheaded SS20s, giving Moscow a 75-warhead advantage over Western Europe. These are in addition to the older SS4 and SS5 missiles. It was the Soviet Union's deployment of the SS20s which led to the December 1979 NATO decision to deploy the cruise and Pershing missiles, starting at the end of 1983.

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**ILSO**  
THE LONDON SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

**Diary**

Two concerts at the Salle Pleyel in Paris last weekend concluded a memorable month in which the Orchestra with its Principal Conductor, Claudio Abbado, performed a series of major piano works with Maurizio Pollini and Alfred Brendel, and (at a special Subscription Launch concert at the Barbican Centre) Radolf Serkin; it also completed its 5th annual Shell/ILSO national tour which attracted its largest audiences ever.

In the coming month at the Royal Festival Hall, the emphasis will be on vocal music, as shown in the adjoining column. For these concerts we shall be welcoming our two Resident Chorus Conductors, Sir Colin Davis and Yevgeny Svetlanov for the first time this season.

The concerts on 15 and 20 November will mark the first appearance of the Festival Hall of the exciting young American soprano, Leona Mitchell. These concerts will include Tippett's Triple Concerto played by the same soloists and conductor as at the performance at the 1980 Proms which led one distinguished critic to write: "It would be hard to imagine a better or more committed first performance. This work was commissioned by the ILSO for its 75th Anniversary. Two stellar talents return to the Festival Hall—Charles Craig in Beethoven's Ninth Symphony and Ronald Dowd as Germolus.

Finally we draw your attention to the very attractive Russian programme on Friday 27 November which includes the distinguished Russian artists, Elena Obraztsova and Yuri Mazurok, who will be singing arias from operas by Tchaikovsky, Mussorgsky and Rimsky-Korsakov.

Sunday 15 November 7.30  
Friday 20 November 8.00  
TIPPETT  
Triple Concerto  
Georgy Sokol, Violin  
Yuliy Iudin, Viola  
Ralph Kirschenblatt, Cello  
BEETHOVEN No. 9 'Choral'  
Symphony No. 9  
Leona Mitchell, Linda Flaminio, Charles Craig, Robert Lloyd  
London Symphony Chorus  
Sir Colin Davis, Conductor  
£7.00 £6.00 £5.00 £4.00 £3.00 £2.00  
Sponsored by British Airways and the ILSO Club

Friday 27 November 8.00  
TCHAIKOVSKY  
Polonaise from Eugene Onegin  
Yuri Mazurok sings arias from TCHAIKOVSKY Eugene Onegin, The Queen of Spades, Iolanta  
MUSSORGSKY  
Khovanshchina Prelude  
Elena Obraztsova sings arias from MUSSORGSKY Khovanshchina RIMSKY-KORSAKOV Katschael the Immortal  
TCHAIKOVSKY The Maid of Orleans  
Symphony No. 4  
Yevgeny Svetlanov, Conductor  
£7.00 £6.00 £5.00 £4.00 £3.00 £2.00  
Sponsored by British Airways

Sunday 29 November 3.15  
Tuesday 1 December 8.00  
ELGAR  
The Dream of Gerontius  
Ronald Dowd, Tenor  
Helen Watts, Mezzo Soprano  
Robert Lloyd, Bass  
London Symphony Chorus  
Yevgeny Svetlanov, Conductor  
£7.00 £6.00 £5.00 £4.00 £3.00 £2.00  
Sponsored by British Airways

# Main parties at Crosby see economy as top issue

The prospective candidates of the three main parties in the Crosby by-election have publicly agreed that it is going to be fought on the issue of the national economy.

Maintaining the momentum of an election in which the official campaigning is not due to start until next Monday, Mr John Burcher, the Conservative choice, held a press conference yesterday and said that he agreed with Mrs Shirley Williams, his Liberal-Social Democratic Alliance opponent, that the state of the economy was the inescapable issue.

He added, however, that in an area not far from Liverpool's Toxteth district, law and order was also bound to loom large. Mrs Williams spent most of yesterday holding private talks with local newspaper editors. She intends to do her first "walkabout" today in the shopping areas. Mr Burcher also plans to walk about but party scouting groups will be out to keep the two apart.

Mrs Williams's workers have transformed some rather seamy and dusty rooms on the first floor of a building in College Road, Crosby, into a campaign headquarters with an appearance approaching the apparent efficiency of the Tory headquarters. The Conservatives are to a single-storey building behind the town's biggest discount store.

## Labour frontbench man resigns

By Julian Haviland, Political Editor

Mr Jeffrey Thomas, QC, Labour MP for Aberystwyth, is not to seek reselection as a parliamentary candidate in the next general election. He has resigned as an opposition spokesman on legal affairs. He is the second frontbench spokesman to resign his position since the Labour Party's annual conference last month.

Mr John Grant, Labour MP for Ilkeston, resigned two weeks ago as a spokesman on employment and, like Mr Thomas, said that he would not seek reselection. Mr Grant has since been having exploratory talks with senior members of the Social Democratic Party.

In a letter yesterday to Mr Michael Foot, leader of the Labour Party, Mr Thomas, who has been MP for Aberystwyth since 1970, said that he was profoundly disturbed by what was happening in the party. He told the management committee of his local party last night that the decision had caused him much regret.

General election: J. Thomas, 21,588; B. Thomas (C), 4,613; D. Harries (Plaid Cymru), 2,448. Labour majority, 17,085.

Labour workers in Bristol

From John Chartres, Crosby

The alliance is offering for sale "Warrington, July 1981", a book of matches and copies of Mrs Williams's latest book.

Five prospective fringe candidates have so far applied for nomination papers from the chief executive of Sefton Borough Council, who will be the returning officer on November 26. They include Lieutenant Commander William Books (Public Safety), who has sent £1 through the post, squibly inscribed, as a first instalment on his bid.

Others are Mr Richard Small, aged 29, an environmental science lecturer at Liverpool college of higher education, for the Ecology Party, and Mr John Kennedy, a student at Middlesex Polytechnic, who is standing on behalf of "suspended students" at the polytechnic.

Nomination papers have to be handed in at Sefton Town Hall by next Thursday. The count will probably take place in Crosby.

The Conservatives and the alliance are launching their first formal press conferences early on Monday; Labour will not be holding one until Wednesday. The apparently slow movement of the campaign for Mr John Burcher, Labour's leading prospective candidate, should not be taken to show any lack of determination. It is

typical of the often successful tactics of Mr Paul Carmody, the party's north-west regional agent, to conserve the energies of all concerned until a by-election really attracts the attention of the public and the voters.

Mr Burcher's assessment of the Crosby by-election, Mr William Shelton, Parliamentary Under-Secretary for Education and Science, said last night that he expected that Mrs Williams would "bring up a good few votes, although she will not win". (Our Political Staff writes).

Speaking at Walton Heath, Surrey, he said that Mr William Pitt, the alliance candidate, had won the by-election at Croydon, North West, last month with a huge swing, but the swing back to the Conservatives at the general election would be equally dramatic. He could not see anything very different about the new SDP.

Mrs Williams was regarded as a vote-winner, but she had lost her seat in 1979 with one of the biggest swings in the country against her.

Mr Shelton thought that her constituents knew her better than today's television and press. While she was Secretary of State for Education and Science real spending on education had fallen by 3 per cent. Under Mrs Margaret Thatcher it had risen by 16 per cent.

Mr Michael Hamilton, aged 63, Conservative MP for Salisbury since 1965, has decided to stand down at the next general election. It was announced yesterday (the Press Association reports). He told his constituency association that he would make way for a younger candidate.

General election: M. Hamilton, 24,562; J. Lakeman (L), 15,718; C. Boney (Lab), 6,321. C majority, 6,244.

Lord Hailsham of St Marylebone, the Lord Chancellor, speaking in Oxford last night, called the Liberal-Social Democratic Alliance a strange phenomenon. (Our Political Staff writes).

"Without a leader, without a policy, without a coherent political philosophy, they are admirably adapted to be all things to all men," he said.

"The question is whether such a contraption or contrivance has any hope of survival in general elections or, if they achieved any measure of success, whether they have any prospect of contributing constructively to national survival or even local government."

## Tribune MPs resign over drift to right

By Anthony Bevis, Political Correspondent

Two Tribune Group MPs have resigned from the steering committee of the Labour Party's Solidarity Campaign.

Mr Jos Ashton, MP for Bassetlaw, and Mr Arthur Davidson, who represents Accrington, have decided that Solidarity has become too right-wing.

They have joined Mr Martin O'Neil, Labour MP for Scrimshire, East, and Clackmannan, another Tribune Group member, in leaving the Solidarity committee. Their decision leaves the campaign with just one Tribune member on the committee, Mr Frank Field, MP for Birkbehead.

Mr Ashton said yesterday that Solidarity had an effect on the campaign with just one Tribune member on the committee, Mr Frank Field, MP for Birkbehead.

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Dr Garret FitzGerald, the Irish Prime Minister, being greeted by Mrs Margaret Thatcher at 10 Downing Street yesterday when he arrived for talks on Anglo-Irish cooperation.

## Outlines for Anglo-Irish links

The following are extracts from the joint report on the Anglo-Irish studies which was issued by both Prime Ministers yesterday.

Possible new institutional structures: Officials considered how the development of the unique relationship between the two countries might appropriately be enhanced by giving it more comprehensive institutional expression, without imposing the many informal links; and in this context examined the following possibilities:

1. The establishment of an Anglo-Irish intergovernmental council to provide the overall framework for inter-governmental consultation, at least of government, ministerial and official levels, on all matters of common interest and concern with particular reference to the development of peace, reconciliation and stability; and the improvement of relations between the two countries and their peoples; and what might be the comparative advantage of the structure, its functions and certain aspects of its operation;

2. how the parliamentary links between the two countries might most appropriately be developed as the mutual and desirable complement to the establishment of a new intergovernmental body;

3. The establishment of an advisory committee on economic, social and cultural cooperation, with a wide membership reflecting vocational interest;

4. The establishment of an inter-institutional committee, pending the creation of an Advisory Committee as at 11, to encourage mutual understanding... It was recognised that as between Britain and the Republic, the problem appeared to be more one of lack of knowledge than of misapprehension. This might be remedied by efforts aimed at a more intensive exchange of information. As between north

and south in Ireland the problem was deeper. In this context the issues which were relevant were the constitutional "claim" and the "guarantee"; and church/state relationship.

Action to reduce misunderstanding of these matters would clearly be needed. Institutional arrangements were also required, deliberately framed to reduce suspicion and distrust, together with measures to make more effective the prosecution of offenders who seek to evade justice by crossing from one side of the border to the other.

Moreover, greatly increased contacts and joint endeavours in the fields of science, technology, information exchanges, might all offer some hope of progress... They considered a range of possibilities including: in the field of education, increased exchanges between teachers and inspectors as well as between pupils and students; particularly the potential for more use by students from the south of tertiary education facilities in Northern Ireland; the establishment of a formal scheme for interchange of officials.

Science report

## The first weather movie now showing

By Pearce Wright, Science Editor

A way of broadcasting moving television pictures from weather satellites has been developed at University College London. The films, recorded on videotape from a computer system at the college's laboratory of planetary sciences, are to be shown by Thames Television. The process is an extension of the method devised for compiling pictures of the clouds covering Saturn from signals transmitted by the Voyager spacecraft. That work was done as a research project for the American Jet Propulsion Laboratory.

The same equipment is now processing data from the new European weather satellite, Meteosat, received on the roof of University College. The resulting pictures were broadcast for the first time in the early evening forecast last night, and are routine service for the Thames area.

Dr Garry Hunt, head of the planetary sciences laboratory, said that they showed a "cold picture" for a cold weekend. The changing scene showed the clockwise motion of a huge anticyclone over the north of Scotland moving north-east, creating the conditions that bring in colder air from northern Europe.

For television presentation the changes over five to six hours are transferred to a video recorder from the magnetic storage discs of the computer image processing system.

The viewer can see cloud formations at different heights because the air masses are moving at different speeds and directions. Particularly heavy concentrations of cloud bring rain, and other features, such as fog, can be shown in different colours.

The signals received by the laboratory contain data to synthesise three different types of picture: from the infrared thermal radiation emitted by clouds, land and sea; from normal reflected light; and from water vapour. The television pictures are compiled from infrared cameras, allowing night photography, and display temperature variations as well as cloud formations.

## New battle over auction premiums

By Geraldine Norman, Sale Room Correspondent

The battle between art dealers and the leading auctioneers, Sotheby's and Christie's, over the legality of auction premiums, is being stirred back into life by the Office of Fair Trading.

The dealers and auctioneers settled their differences at the beginning of last month on the eve of a High Court hearing on the legality of the practice. The settlement was for the good of the market, were expected to rumble into the open, to the lasting damage of market confidence.

Now Mr Gordon Borrie, Director General of Fair Trading, has intervened. Mr John Baskett, president of the Society of London Art Dealers, and Mr Charles Lee, president of the British Antique Dealers' Association, to ask whether they may see the evidence that they had intended to place before the court.

Mr Baskett and Mr Lee are to discuss the position with their lawyers on Monday. Later in the week Mr Baskett will be discussing the decision with his executive; Mr Lee intends to call a special meeting of his council to debate the issue.

From yesterday's

later editions

## New transport chief sought

The Greater London Council is to advertise for a successor to Sir Peter Mayhew as chairman of the London Transport Executive. Private soundings failed to find a suitable candidate (our Transport Correspondent writes).

Mr Ted Knight, leader of Lambeth Council, was apparently considered. A suggestion by Mr David Wetzel, chairman of the GLC transport committee, to turn London Transport into a workers' cooperative, which would elect its own chairman did not find favour.

Mr Michael Hasselstine, Secretary of State for the Environment, will be challenged in the High Court if he sends in his agents to take over the sale of council houses from Norwich City Council.

He threatened to appoint commissioners to sell about 650 houses because, he says, the council has made insufficient progress in sales.

Overseas selling prices  
Austria 3.50, Belgium 3.50, Canada 2.50, Denmark 3.50, France 3.50, Germany 3.50, Greece 3.50, Ireland 3.50, Italy 3.50, Japan 3.50, Korea 3.50, Netherlands 3.50, Norway 3.50, Portugal 3.50, Spain 3.50, Sweden 3.50, Switzerland 3.50, Taiwan 3.50, Thailand 3.50, United Kingdom 3.50, United States 3.50, West Germany 3.50, Yugoslavia 3.50.

## Bootees and a wish for royal baby

The Queen was handed knitted white bootees yesterday at Newcastle upon Tyne to pass on to the Princess of Wales, who is expecting a baby in June.

The Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh were in the city to open the £200,000 rapid transit system on which they travelled to the end of the line at Hewart, near South Shields. Outside the station Helen Daines, aged four, presented the gifts to the Queen, who accepted them and told the girl's aunt, Mrs Maierie McAlister, who made the bootees on Thursday, that they had worked very quickly.

The Queen officially declared the Metro system open when the train stopped at Gateshead. After unveiling a plaque, she said: "I hope the people of Tyne and Wear will recognise their Metro as an outstanding achievement and take full advantage of it."

The Princess, whose pregnancy was announced on Thursday, spent yesterday relaxing at Highgrove, her Gloucestershire home, before starting a busy six-day schedule of engagements today.

Tonight she and the Prince will be at the Albert Hall for the annual Festival of Remembrance. Tomorrow the couple, with the Queen and other members of the Royal Family, will be present at the Cenotaph in Whitehall for the Remembrance Day ceremony.

On Monday the Prince and the Princess will be in Devon, the first time the Princess has visited a Duchy area since her marriage.

Queen Mother in Field of Remembrance photograph, page 8

## AWARD FOR RADIO 4 TEAM

By Kenneth Gosling

A silver trophy was presented to the members of the Radio 4 Today team yesterday—Brian Redhead, John Timpson and Abby Farver—for their "good spirits and cheerfulness" at the start of every weekday.

The team received the National Viewers and Listeners' Association's tenth annual award for what Mrs Mary Whitehouse, the association's founder, called "very good, very balanced and thoroughly professional world-wide coverage."

The award is based on assessment by members of the association during the year, after which a decision is taken by a small committee. The presentation was announced by the town crier of the City of London, Mr Peter Moore.

## Moss Side gets violence study project

From Our Correspondent, Manchester

Greater Manchester Council is to organize research into the reasons why young people in Moss Side feel harassed by the police. The research was one of the recommendations made by the police committee which met yesterday to discuss the report into the Moss Side riots prepared by a tribunal headed by Mr Benet Hymer, QC.

The committee accepted the view expressed in the report that young people in Moss Side believed they were harassed by the police but accepted that no evidence that that was true had been presented.

Mr Peter Kelly, the committee chairman, said: "Properly conducted research is the only way we can gauge the attitudes of young people and

the reasons for those attitudes. The inquiry could only get an idea of what the young people felt, particularly young blacks."

The committee decided the broader issues raised in the report should not be discussed until the Scarman report had been completed. The two reports could then be discussed together. It was decided, however, that a community officer should be appointed to deal with complaints against the police and to try to improve relationships between the police and the community.

Mr James Anderson, the chief constable, told the committee that he was asking black people to help to train better officers (the Press Association reports). He said a joint stand-

ing committee had been set up to consult with ethnic groups on the training of police recruits.

"By continual appraisal and constant liaison with the representatives of the ethnic groups progress will surely be made towards a better trained police officer, with a sound knowledge of his duties and a deeper understanding of the community in which he must work," he said.

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## IN BRIEF

### Father dismisses councillor son

Mr David Trenchard, general manager of his family's removal business in Poole, Dorset, has been dismissed by his father, Mr Jack Trenchard, the managing director, because he was spending too much time carrying out duties as a councillor in Bournemouth.

Mr Trenchard, junior, of Wilfred Road, Bournemouth, who says he spent at least fifty hours a week on company business, has bought a rival removal firm.

### Two on murder charge

Colin Parker, of Springfield Road, Bournemouth, and William Brickell, of Porter Hill, Bournemouth, have been charged with the murder of a fishmonger, Mr Michael Walker, last Saturday.

### Murder committal

Leroy Lynch, aged 27, unemployed and of no fixed address, was committed by Highbury magistrates in London yesterday to the Central Criminal Court, to be tried for the murder of Miss Angela Hunt, aged 18, a student, in Stoke Newington, north London, on September 3.

### 'Listener' editor

Mr Russell Drisk, aged 40, has been appointed to succeed Mr Anthony Howard as editor of The Listener. He has been development manager of BBC publications since 1976.

### Simon Dee fined £100

Simon Dee, former disc jockey and television chat show host of Victoria



## More opposition faces Trudeau on constitution

From John Best, Ottawa, Nov 6

Having struck a deal with all the provinces except Quebec on bringing home Canada's constitution from Westminster, Mr Pierre Trudeau, the Prime Minister, today turned his attention to the problem of getting it through the Parliament.

First indications were that passage will not be as quick and simple as the Prime Minister would like. Mr Trudeau scheduled meetings with both Mr Joe Clark, the Conservative Opposition leader, and Mr Ed Broadbent, the leader of the New Democratic Party, to discuss a timetable for putting his revised constitutional package through the House.

But Mr Clark had already made it clear that he is in no mood to expedite passage, especially in view of the "dark shadow" cast by French-speaking Quebec's rejection of the federal-provincial agreement.

Mr René Lévesque, the Quebec Premier, angrily turned the package down when it was concluded yesterday, because in his view it diminishes his province's powers. Mr Clark told the Commons, after listening to Mr Trudeau's announcement of the historic agreement calling for final patriation of the 1867 British North America Act, that his party would want to give the proposed settlement careful study.

The Tories might even have some amendments to put forward aimed at making the accord acceptable to Quebec, which has about a quarter of Canada's 24 million population, he said.

The agreement worked out yesterday, after four days of hectic and often confusing negotiations between Mr Trudeau and the 10 provincial premiers, involves a classic trade-off.

The federal government accepted the constitutional amendments formula advocated by the eight premiers — including Mr Lévesque — who had opposed the original, unilateral federal plan for turning over control of the Act.

In return, the Prime Minister got an entrenched charter of rights, something the group of eight had opposed. One of the main points on which Mr Lévesque parted from the other first ministers was a provision guaranteeing minority-language education rights across Canada.

Quebec, whose record in the field of minority rights is probably better than that of any English-speaking province, nevertheless objected because the provision would cut into provincial jurisdiction over education.

Mr Broadbent supported the agreement in general terms, but some members of his caucus are opposing it because, among other things, protection of aboriginal rights for Indians and Eskimos has been dropped from the charter.

Relief in Commons

While there could still be a few British MPs willing to make a challenge on behalf of Quebec and the "native Canadian" parties at Westminster today was that the legislation needed in London will go through without much trouble George Clark writes.

Sir Anthony Kershaw, Conservative MP for Stroud and chairman of the Commons Select Committee which examined the legal implications of the move, said: "The agreement of nine of the provinces removes the fundamental objection which the House of Commons would have taken to the original proposals."

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## Papandreou receives a Turkish olive-branch

From Mario Modiano, Athens, Nov 6

Turkey today reciprocated the peace overtures made a week ago by Mr Andreas Papandreou, the new socialist Prime Minister of Greece, when he sent the Turkish leaders a message of goodwill — an olive-branch, as he called it.

Mr Papandreou announced today that he had received a message from Mr Bulent Ulusu, the Turkish Prime Minister, which he said was "also an olive-branch."

"Without wishing to sound over optimistic, I believe that this may be the beginning of a new era in Greek-Turkish relations. What will follow will, I hope, vindicate this optimism," he said.

The content of the verbal messages exchanged between Athens and Ankara were not disclosed. However, it is understood that the two sides have agreed in principle to maintain a dialogue. Its nature remains to be defined.

A Greek-Turkish diplomatic dialogue has been in progress, for several years but has produced no substantial results on the differences of the two Aegean countries.

After a meeting with Mr Fahri Alacan, the Turkish Ambassador, Mr Papandreou said that the aim of his initiative has been "to make the Aegean a sea of peace and of good-neighbourly relations". The response had been positive; he was optimistic despite the "great issues" that exist in the Aegean area.

The Socialist takeover in Greece was seen with some misgiving in Ankara. Throughout his election campaign Mr Papandreou had openly treated Turkey as a potential enemy of Greece.

After his victory he declared that Greece would pull out of Nato's military arm unless the United States guaranteed Greece against an attack by Turkey.

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Goodbye to all that: The Soviet submarine heads for international waters under escort by a Swedish naval vessel.

## Sweden says farewell

### Soviet submarine makes a public exit

From David Brown, Stockholm, Nov 6

Soviet submarine No 137 today sailed out of Swedish waters to be greeted by a flotilla of Russian vessels 20 miles south-west of the naval base at Karlskrona.

The Swedish authorities released the Soviet submarine after revealing yesterday that their tests showed the vessel almost certainly carried nuclear torpedoes. Swedish navy officials said the submarine was towed by the 1,000-tonne submarine out of Sweden's southern waters at daybreak under an escort of mine-sweepers, patrol boats and helicopters with press boats in attendance.

After an hour, heavy seas forced the tug to release the submarine and it was allowed to sail out with an escort under its own power to international waters where Soviet vice-admiral Aleksei Salin was waiting aboard his destroyer.

The investigation revealed that the submarine almost certainly had nuclear warheads on its torpedoes. During their inspection, naval officers detected the presence of uranium 238 stores.

A defence staff spokesman said that radiation was monitored at a very early stage, possibly as early as last Saturday. Radiation was measured from outside the submarine on at least three occasions. Apparently the Swedish authorities had already had some indication that the submarine had nuclear weapons on board before the incident.

A demand to Moscow for clarification and a request that Swedish experts should be allowed to inspect the source of radiation drew a "strongly negative" reply from the Russians. Mr Ullsten said the Russians refused to allow inspection but did not deny there were nuclear weapons on board.

Mr Ullsten twice issued sternly worded protests to Moscow through Mr Mikhail Yakovlev, the Swedish Ambassador, which accused the Soviet Union of flagrantly violating Swedish territory. The second protest, made yesterday, said the violation was all the more remarkable since in all probability the

submarine has carried nuclear weapons into Swedish territory.

This revelation sent shock waves through neutral non-nuclear Sweden even greater than those produced by the discovery of the submarine in a sensitive area. The Swedes regard the incident as a cynical act by a superpower against a neutral country. In their eyes the Soviet Union has lost credibility in its peace overtures towards the Nordic area.

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Mr Olof Palme, leader of the Opposition Social Democratic Party, expressed his full support for the Government's stand yesterday. "There has been a united Swedish political front over the whole affair," he said.

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## American warmth cheers Moroccans

Rabat, Nov 6 — A strong United States military delegation led by Mr Francis J. West Jr, the assistant defence secretary ended a three-day visit with a renewed assurance of American backing for Morocco in its war against the Marxist-led Polisario guerrilla movement.

A similar assurance was given by Mr Joseph Verner Reed, the new American ambassador, in presenting his credentials to King Hassan in the mountain resort of Ifrane.

At Rabat airport, Mr West emphasized the American view that Polisario's recent escalation of the war was likely to obstruct King Hassan's proposal for a cease-fire and a referendum among the disputed territory's 100,000 inhabitants.

The delegation, including two generals, went on a helicopter tour on Thursday of the desert battle zone where Moroccan forces have fought a costly war against the guerrillas for six years.

The Polisario movement, backed by Algeria and Libya, is seeking the independence of the former Spanish Sahara territory annexed by Morocco in 1975.

Mr West said the upsurge in the war gave "a new and added urgency" to the group's visit to evaluate American military assistance needed.

The Moroccan Government has asked for additional American help to counter new, sophisticated Soviet-built Sam-6 missiles said to have destroyed four Moroccan aircraft and a helicopter last month. — AP.

## EXPULSIONS ORDERED BY BAGHDAD

By Haziir Teimourian, The Government of Iraq has expelled 1,200 Iraqis to Iran, according to Tehran radio, monitored in London.

The Iraqis said that the expelled included women and children, three of whom had died while crossing a minefield at the border. The announcement did not give the religion or ethnic origins of those expelled, but the Kurdish town of Javrud, the point at which they crossed the border, is far to the north of the traditional point of expulsion for Iraqi Shia Muslims of Iranian origin.

It is possible that most of the expelled are families of Iraqi Kurds who have reacted to the rebellion against the Government in Baghdad. Sixteen months ago Iraq expelled 16,000 Iraqi Shia Muslims of Iranian origin.

It was announced in Paris yesterday that the Kurdistan Democratic Party of Iran had formally taken over the new national council of resistance recently set up by former President Abolhasan Bani-Sadr and Mr Massud Rajavi, leader of the left-wing Mujahedin Khalq.

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## Changing guard in Middle East

## Haddad resigns as leader of Christian militia

From Christopher Walker, Jerusalem, Nov 6

Major Saad Haddad, commander of the Israeli-backed Christian militia forces in southern Lebanon and self-proclaimed president of the buffer zone which runs along Israel's northern border, today announced his resignation in a broadcast on the local gospel radio station, the Voice of Hope.

The announcement took both the Israeli military establishment and some of Major Haddad's own men by surprise, although the resignation had been predicted last week by the Beirut newspaper *An Nahar*, which warned that it would lead to Israeli annexation of the territory.

The report was denied by Israeli sources. Tonight, Israeli radio claimed that senior Israeli officers were trying to persuade the 44-year-old major to reconsider his decision.

No reason for the resignation was given but there have been recent rumours in southern Lebanon that the major was dissatisfied with restraints imposed on him by Israel under the terms of the cross-border ceasefire with the Palestinians, which has been in effect since July 24.

There have also been doubts about the state of Major Haddad's health. He was taken to the intensive care ward of a hospital in the Israeli port of Haifa, in April, suffering from a mysterious illness which was never properly explained. The French language service of Israeli radio tonight quoted Major Haddad as having said in his resignation broadcast that his decision had mainly been taken for health reasons, and emphasised that it had nothing to do with Israel. He thanked the Israeli Government for its assistance, and urged his officers to continue their task.

The major remained incommunicado at his home in the south Lebanese town of Marjayoun and was not available to elaborate on the reasons for his announcement. It followed a private meeting yesterday with Christian and Muslim representatives from many of the villages in southern Lebanon. Major Haddad named his successor as Lieutenant Sharbel Barakat, a young Beirut-trained Lebanese Army officer, who since last summer has been in charge of the western sector of the border enclave.

## Britain seeks formula for Sinai force

By David Spanier

The confusion and uncertainty over British and other Western European countries' participation in the Sinai peace-keeping force continued yesterday.

Although the Foreign Office said that an announcement was expected "soon", it was still not clear last night on what terms Britain would join the force, due to monitor the Sinai after the Israeli withdrawal in April.

While the United States was pressing Britain to take a decision quickly and thus back Egyptian-Israeli peace treaty agreed at Camp David, Lord Carrington, the Foreign Secretary, was consulting his EEC partners in search of a common position.

The risk was that if agreement was not reached, the whole idea of European participation in the peace-keeping force could collapse in a welter of recriminations. The situation was particularly embarrassing to Britain, the present chairman of the EEC Council and the country most committed to a European "initiative" in the Middle East, Foreign Office officials

refused to be drawn on progress, maintaining merely that "consultations were continuing to find the right formula of words".

Lord Carrington's dilemma was how to steer a course between the opposition of the radical Arab states, condemning the Camp David process altogether, and the growing hostility of Israel to any attempt by the Europeans to distance themselves from Camp David at the same time as joining the peace force.

The decision in principle that Britain, France, Italy and the Netherlands would provide troops for the peace-keeping force was taken at a meeting last week. But in an interview with *Arab Journalist*, Lord Carrington later admitted: "I don't think that we can pretend that we are anxious to do it."

The first problem arose over the Greek attitude.

But while this sort of difficulty is nothing unusual within the Community, in the time it took to get discussions moving, the Israeli Government was moving in with its own, far more adamant and fundamental objections.

## Husain gives backing to Saudi peace plan

From Nicholas Ashford, Washington, Nov 6

King Husain of Jordan said today the eight-point Middle East peace plan proposed by Saudi Arabia was close to what his country had been advocating for many years.

The King, in a speech prepared for delivery at a World Affairs Council meeting in Los Angeles, said that Jordan had adhered with constancy to the principles of the United Nations Security Council Resolution 242 for a settlement. The speech was the King's only important public policy statement of his United States visit.

Prince Saud, the Saudi Foreign Minister, is reported to have said that his Government would seek a resolution at the United Nations endorsing the eight-point plan and then ask the Security Council to sponsor an international conference.

King Husain said: "When I addressed this council on April 6, 1976, I called for appropriate guarantees of all states in the area, including Israel, and for Israel's withdrawal from all Arab territory occupied since June 1967 as well as for the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination and their right to return to their homes or be compensated for their lost property."

He added that Jordan was prepared to pursue the course of peace with Israel on these terms: "We have been constant since 1967 in our adherence to Security Council Resolution 242,

as both we and the United States understood it at the time."

The King declared that the central issue was "and always had been the right of the Palestinian people to exercise their inalienable right of self-determination, including the right to establish an independent state in Palestine if they so desired."

Meanwhile, American officials have said that a decision by King Husain of Jordan to buy surface-to-air missiles from the Soviet Union could complicate United States-Jordan arms relations.

The weapons deal, reportedly involving Sam 6 missiles, would be King Husain's first arms purchase in the Soviet Union. Hitherto, Jordan has looked to the United States and Britain for its defence equipment.

□ Damascus: While Europe and the United States are showing increasing enthusiasm for the Saudi plan, Syria is treating it with a mixture of suspicion and disdain (Robert Fisk writes).

□ Unwilling to offend the Saudis before the Arab summit, discusses the plan in Morocco later this month, the Syrians are none the less hurt that yet another Arab state appears to be offering guarantees of recognition for Israel before the Israelis have themselves shown any sign of recognising a Palestinian "right" to statehood on the West Bank and in Gaza.



Desert captives: A rebel Chadian guerrilla guards government troops taken prisoner in recent fighting in Ouaddai province, Eastern Chad.

## Chad crowns Mitterrand's African success story

From Charles Hargrave, Paris, Nov 6

The Franco-African conference held in Paris this week, coupled with the announcement of the Libyan withdrawal from Chad, has undoubtedly produced diplomatic success for President Mitterrand.

All 20 heads of state participating in the two-day talks, six of whom were entertained to luncheon by him at the Elysee Palace yesterday, have expressed satisfaction with his approach to African problems and his advocacy of the cause of African countries at the Cancun "summit" last month.

They regard Colonel Gaddafi's surprise decision to evacuate his troops as being provoked by the impact on world opinion of the French President's appeal from the "summit" for the immediate despatch of a pan-African peace-keeping force to Chad.

The misgivings entertained by some of the "moderate" governments of French-speaking Africa over the coming to power of the Socialists in this country last summer have been dispelled. The condemnation of past French military intervention, the support for "liberation movements" and the proclaimed intention of "de-

colonizing" French aid expressed by M. Mitterrand and Socialist leaders before and just after the elections, have been forgiven.

But there is more to it than that. The French president, who has a personal experience of Africa and bonds of personal friendship of long-standing with African leaders like President Houphouët-Boigny, had no diffi-

culty in finding the right manner and tone in speaking to them.

□ Lagos.—The inter-African peace-keeping force for Chad could be installed by the beginning of next week, an informed source said here today (AFP reports). Chad's president Ouaddai arrived here from Paris to see Nigeria's President Shagari.

## Dissension grows in ranks of Solidarity

From Dossa Trevisan, Warsaw, Nov 6

The Præsidium of Solidarity has assured the Polish authorities that it is ready to seek a compromise settlement during the coming talks with the Government. But it also expressed the hope that the Government should be ready to make concessions.

The communiqué, signed by Mr Lech Walesa, comes after the tripartite summit last week which seems to have agreed only on the principles of seeking a national consensus to restore social peace.

Mr Walesa paid tribute to General Jaruzelski for agreeing to meet him as well as for readiness to discuss the subjects the union has raised. The summit, showed there are reasons to hope that peace can be achieved. The Præsidium of Solidarity's executive which runs day-to-day business but in theory only with the blessing of the national commission.

Serious doubts on whether Mr Walesa can get the full support of the national commission have not been allayed. The commission has 107 members, 59 elected at last month's congress, and 38 heads of regional chapters who represent the fiercest opposition to Mr Walesa. Just before Mr Walesa forced their hand by springing the announcement that he was to meet General Jaruzelski and Monsignor Giamp, the Polish Primate, he was criticised for doing things alone.

The commission, since last month's congress, has been doing its utmost to curb his powers. But Mr Walesa, enjoys the support of the church, and the authorities have every interest in seeing that his position is strengthened because he represents the moderate line and still enjoys sufficient support to fight his opponents in the union leadership.

The radicals and even some moderates, who accuse him of acting too often over the commission's head, have been angered by his decision to go to the meeting alone. During this week's meeting, Mr Jan Rulawski, the radical regional leader from Bydgoszcz, asked ironically: "If you are going with the intention of giving the Premier, the gift of ending strikes, you should at least tell the national commission what programme you are taking along."

Mr Walesa lost his temper and accused Mr Rulawski of waiting to spread chaos so that everyone could say that Solidarity had lost control of the situation. He threatened to dissolve the union within a fortnight.

He was accused of placing himself above the national commission and reminding that the supreme authority of the union rested with the national commission and not with its chairman. The time had come, one regional leader said, to change the chairman.

After the meeting with General Jaruzelski and the

Prime Minister, Mr Walesa snubbed the commission, which was still in session, by staying in Warsaw.

□ The Pope said today that the problem facing us is to save Europe and the world from further catastrophes. He was addressing the international congress on Europe's Christian roots (Peter Nicholas reports from Rome).

Among those at the congress were Monsignor Josef Giamp, and Cardinal Macharski, the Pope's successor as Archbishop of Cracow.

□ Two people were killed in a military by 1,000 prisoners in a jail in Kaminsk, northern Poland, where tear gas and water cannon were used against rioters, the official news agency PAP said today (Reuters reports from Warsaw).

PAP said the two were killed in what it called an outbreak of lynch law. It did not say whether they were prisoners or guards.

□ A Warsaw court has ordered the temporary release of three leaders of the dissident Confederation for an Independent Poland (KPN), sources close to the three said today. Mr Leszek Mocmisl, aged 50, Mr Romuald Szeremietew, aged 35, and Mr Tadeusz Stanski, aged 32, were freed despite the objections of the government, which appealed the decision to the supreme court.—AFP.

□ Monsignor Giamp, historic talks.

□ Mr Roman Malinowski, Deputy Premier in charge of agriculture, was voted president of the Polish Peasants Party (ZSL) in an uncontested election today after his predecessor resigned in response to a call for a vote of confidence, PAP news agency reported.

Mr Ignar, aged 73, walked out of a party meeting yesterday when members decided to take a vote of confidence in his leadership of the group, which has 100,000 members and holds 113 of parliament's 480 seats. Although they voted 85 to 58 in his favour, Mr Ignar refused to continue in the post, which he had held on an interim basis for six months.—AFP.

## Liberals expected to gain in Belgian elections

From Ian Murray, Brussels, Nov 6

The larger political parties in Belgium stand to lose most in the general election on Sunday, according to the latest opinion polls. The right-wing Liberals, however, stand to make significant gains and both the ecologists and the anti-tax party ought to be able to expect real representation in the next parliament.

The election, precipitated by the collapse of the last coalition government over economic policy, nevertheless does not

seem capable of breaking the traditional stranglehold by the Flemish Social Christian Party on the government.

The Socialist Party in the French-speaking part of the country, which was responsible for breaking up the last government, has apparently lost only half a per cent of its support in the same period, and can expect 12.5 per cent of the vote.

The Liberals, however, show an increase in support from 7 to 9.2 per cent.

## Communists of Spain expel their rebels

From Harry Debelius, Madrid, Nov 6

While Spain's ruling Centre Democratic Party took time off from its internal squabbling for a "pause for reflection", the executive committee of the Spanish Communist Party relentlessly pursued its purge here today of party members who sided with a breakaway faction of Basque Communists.

Señor Leopoldo Calvo Sotelo, the Prime Minister, spoke about the pause for reflection in a brief remark to reporters as he left Parliament in Madrid last night. The reason for it is that the party is plagued by defections on both the right and left and an internal power struggle.

Meanwhile, the decision of Señor Roberto Lertxundi, the leader of the Basque Communist Party, to unite with the Revolutionary Nationalist Basque Left against the explicit instructions of the secretary-general of the Spanish Communist Party, prompted the PCB's executive committee to propose here this afternoon the expulsion of six members of the party's central committee who publicly sided with Señor Lertxundi.

The expulsion move followed the party's demand yesterday that all Communists holding public office who signed a document in favour of the Basque Left should resign from their posts.

□ Coup fear: Señor Felipe González, the leader of Spain's Socialist opposition, said today that a crisis in the ruling Centre Democratic Party could lead to a coup attempt (Reuters reports from Madrid).

He told Spanish journalists that anti-democratic elements were emboldened by the split in the ruling party and were making comments that preceded a coup.

□ Army Plotters: Extreme right-wing Army officers are seeking to revive a clandestine organisation, the "Spanish Military Union, to conspire against King Juan Carlos, who saved Spain from a military coup last February (Richard Wigg writes from Madrid).

While striving to avoid detection by military intelligence, these rightist officers are trying to create a network ready to attempt another coup when the country's political situation appears favourable, the sources say.

The seriousness of such a threat for democracy hardly needs underlining with the Government of Señor Leopoldo Calvo Sotelo weakened by internal clashes of rival factions within the ruling Centre Democratic Party. The forthcoming trial of three senior generals, accused of participation in the February coup attempt, places further strain on the civilian administration.

□ Picasso tribute: As police sharpshooters watched on the roof of Madrid's Museum of Modern Art, King Juan Carlos and Queen Sofia opened today a retrospective exhibition of 137 paintings by Picasso organized as homage to the country's greatest modern painter.

□ Correction: In a report from Paris yesterday the seasonally adjusted figure for unemployment in France was given as 1,322,000. This should have read 1,822,000.

## Police move against Frankfurt protesters

From Patricia Clough, Bonn, Nov 6

A second long cabin village erected by environmentalists trying to prevent the building of a third runway at Frankfurt airport was evacuated by police today.

The operation, which met with no resistance, followed a week of violent clashes between police and protesters at the clearing of the first village on Monday.

Sympathizers held demonstrations in several other West German cities, as the evacuees started building a second village.

While police were clearing the new village this morning, unknown attackers smashed the window of a Frankfurt savings bank and threw an incendiary device causing substantial damage. Another home-made bomb damaged the Austrian consulate-general.

Last night traffic in central Frankfurt was paralysed when some 54,000 demonstrators staged a march and sit-in outside the mayor's office.

The bitterness of the environmentalists and their sympathizers has mounted with repeated allegations of police brutality. Eye-witnesses said that injured demonstrators were beaten off their feet at first-aid stations and there were reports of several cracked skulls.

The Association of Civic Action Groups spoke of a fear of anti-racist and truncheon orgies against children, pensioners and women which are unprecedented in the history of West Germany.

□ Kohl victory: Herr Helmut Kohl emerged from this week's Christian Democrat Party congress with his position as party chairman considerably strengthened.

Many Christian Democrats are unhappy with Herr Kohl's uninspiring leadership and doubt his intellectual qualifications for the chancellorship. But by tacit accord the need for harmony was given priority.

Herr Kohl, who gave a dull performance at the last congress, dominated the scene. He told those who had disgraced him that they would do better to attend election rallies than give interviews.

The congress approved a final document supporting the Nato decision on medium-range missiles. Its most important foreign policy aim, it said, was balanced arms reduction and it reaffirmed its commitment to the United States and Nato.

## IN BRIEF

## Far East agrees on news exchange

Singapore.—Delegates at the Kuala Lumpur meeting of the Organization of Asia-Pacific News Agencies have agreed to establish an Asian-Pacific news exchange (David Watts writes). The delegates said the exchange was not intended to dislodge the big international news agencies, but would supplement their coverage.

## Israeli air strike

Tel Aviv.—Hundreds of people were stranded in Israel as the strike by El Al airline workers entered its second day. The strike began after the airline announced 18 flight engineers would be made redundant. Flights scheduled for tomorrow have been cancelled.

## Judge wounded

Santiago.—Extremists yesterday shot and wounded Señor Israel Borquez Montero, the President of Chile's supreme court of justice. He was hit in the left shoulder.

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# The illusion of town hall independence

by Alex Henney

Local government and its supporters are already angry about the Government's Local Government Finance Bill published yesterday.

Three main arguments are advanced in opposition to the Government's proposals to limit local spending, that they are unconstitutional, undemocratic, and that they centralize power. Despite the squalls from the local government lobby, the constitutional argument is weak. According to the 1835 case law concept of "ultra vires" a statutory corporation "exists merely for the purposes for which it is established by Act of Parliament, and it has no existence for any other purpose".

Ever since the Municipal Corporations Act 1835, the powers of local government have been legally subordinate to Parliament. The Departmental Committee on Local Taxation of 1914 reaffirmed this view, stating that local authorities "and their revenues are in fact the creation of Parliament and subject to its control, direct and indirect".

Reflecting its controlling power, central government has over the decades passed a series of acts that have added to local powers (clearance, education, taken away local powers (providing hospitals and water), and on occasion reorganized local government structure. Of particular significance is the debate about whether we have long looked to central

government to act as a check upon local government. The 1835 Act was intended partly to curb local corruption.

Subsequently, Parliament has imposed checks such as the District Audit Service, Planning Appeals, and the Education Inspectorate, all staffed by civil servants, and transferred rating valuation from local government to the Inland Revenue to curb local abuse. Most importantly it has imposed a variety of legal constraints upon how local government can finance itself, and dispose of assets.

The central power is consistent with how we regard our politics. Local councils have increasingly politicized along party lines, and the outcome of many local elections is decided not on local issues, but upon the popularity of the government of the day. The GLC Labour Party has taken matters further by including opposition to the national government as an election pledge.

It states that "mass opposition to Tory Government policies led by a Labour GLC could become the focal point of a national campaign against the cuts and for a general election". The politicization of local government may strengthen national parties, and may strengthen the influence of local government on its party at Westminster, but it has weakened local government and distanced it from its local electors.

We regard central government as responsible for the welfare state. Westminster politicians make election pledges to achieve programme targets — building houses, hospitals, schools, universities, etc. — regardless of whether the central government is the executor or not. Subsequently, ministers attempt to ensure that the programmes for which local authorities are responsible are implemented by a mixture of legislation, subsidies and persuasion.

Social pressure groups, such as Shelter and Mind, devote much of their efforts to effect change by attempting to influence central government to impose duties upon local authorities. It is consistent within our political traditions for ratepayers to look directly to central government to curb rates. We should not elevate what is in effect custom and practice into a constitutional matter, but rather argue the question of the wisdom of further central control pragmatically.

The argument that democracy will be lessened implies that local government is democratic and representative. Yet the 1967 "Committee on the Management of Local Government" commented that it "found no evidence to support the common belief that our local

government has some uniquely democratic content". The reason for this view is not difficult to find. At local elections in Britain averages only 40 per cent of the electorate (a far lower proportion than in other major European countries). And our voting system leads to gross misrepresentation. For example in the May 1981 GLC election the turnout was 44.4 per cent of the electorate. Labour obtained 41.8 per cent of the votes, (only 18.6 per cent of the electorate voted for it) but 53 per cent of the seats.

Like many councils the GLC has no credible mandate for unusual policies. In particular, as the Labour manifesto stated, its proposals at a 6p to 8p rate, the GLC clearly has no mandate for the recent supplementary rate (with ILEA) of 16.6p.

Local expenditure accounts for about a third of all public expenditure, some 16 per cent of the GNP, and central government grant pays for 59 per cent of local costs. Central government has curbed local capital spending, which it can control directly through existing powers, and it has been reduced over the past five years from £7.5 billion to £3.0 billion (1979 survey prices). It has tried by persuasion and by reducing the exchequer grant to get local government to reduce current expenditure, but has failed. Current

expenditure and staffing are much the same now as they were six years ago, when Mr Crosland said, "the party was over" and costs have been shifted on to ratepayers.

Yesterday's Bill proposes that from next year the Government will set a limit to the rate an authority can levy. If it wishes to rate above that level, then before June 1 it will have to specify how much it wants in a supplementary rate, and then put it to a referendum of the electorate before the end of June.

A referendum seems a most appropriate way of determining whether a council can pursue high spending policies. With a high poll it will be democratic. And most importantly it keeps the decision local. The proposals do not involve much growth of central power. Rather central government sets a trigger level, then if appropriate implements the will of local people.

The reason politicians object to referenda is that they deter unpopular measures and shift power from political parties to people. As the constitutional lawyer, Mr A. V. Dicey, commented of referenda, "every party which wishes to force its own will upon the electorate detests this particular reform".

The author is a management consultant and a former special adviser to the Department of the Environment.

Geoffrey Smith



Men at the centre of the American foreign policy controversy: Alexander Haig, Richard Allen and Casper Weinberger

## What a way to run a foreign policy

Washington

Once again this week the question has been presented in dramatic form: just who is running American foreign policy? It had seemed recently that Mr Alexander Haig was recovering some of his authority as Secretary of State after his fall from grace at the time of the shooting of the President in April. His knowledge of international affairs is respected, he is considered to have made some excellent appointments at the State Department, and he is regarded as the principal advocate within the Administration of a moderate foreign policy. But now his vulnerability in the Washington jungle has again been made evident.

He has been undermined in a number of ways. The column that Mr Jack Anderson of the Washington Post had prepared suggesting that the President had lost confidence in his Secretary of State, was not in itself significant. It was Mr Haig's reaction that mattered. It has been difficult in Washington to find anyone willing to defend his telephone calls to Mr Anderson in the attempt to persuade him that the publication of such a column would not be justified. Mr Haig managed only to focus public attention on the allegation and, once again, to give the impression of a man who does not remain calm under pressure.

His well-publicised complaints that a senior White House official has been trying to discredit him may also have been ill-advised. They sounded querulous. They drew attention to the difficulty he has with colleagues and to the weakness of his position. But they were, in substance, accurate. The difficulty in Washington this week has not been to think of a White House official who has privately been disparaging the Secretary of State, but to decide which official Mr Haig had in mind.

The most obvious candidate is Mr Richard Allen, the National Security Adviser, even though there have been denials on both sides. Mr Allen may not have been running a campaign against Mr Haig, but he is well known for his slighting reference to the Secretary of State as "Mr. Secretary".

Mr Haig has his critics, but Mr Allen has few friends. Washington is a place where there is a perpetual market in political reputations, and once a person's stock slides below a certain point it is difficult for him to recover. Mr Allen's stock is not high, and one hears the suggestion time and again that he should be replaced.

Yet that would not be enough to restore cohesion to the conduct of American foreign policy at a time when the Secretaries of State and Defence join in open combat before Senate committees. It was not surprising that Mr Casper Weinberger should wish on Thursday to disassociate himself from Mr Haig's assertion the previous day that there was no contingency plan for exploding a nuclear warhead as a demonstration to deter the Soviet Union from trying to overrun Western Europe in the event of a conventional attack. But there are ways in which a minister can take a different line from a cabinet colleague with the minimum fuss in public. Mr

Weinberger chose to do so with the maximum impact. He is close to the President and has been for many years, much closer than Mr Haig has ever been. In a battle for Mr Reagan's ear, all the smart money would be on Mr Weinberger.

This has naturally fed suspicions that, despite denials, Mr Haig is indeed on his way out. His abrasive manner does not suit Mr Reagan's style: the President does not like having to sort out conflicts between his subordinates. He prefers an atmosphere of consensus and harmony.

Mr Reagan is a President who has not experienced international affairs and does not immerse himself in the conduct of foreign policy. He is not the man to be his own Secretary of State. His most trusted advisers — the White House triumvirate of Mr Ed Meese, Mr James Baker and Mr Michael Deaver — are also not experienced in international affairs and they also have the whole range of domestic policy to worry about. But they are not prepared simply to leave foreign policy to others.

Mr Allen does not rival Mr Haig's expertise, or his authority, in the way that some national security advisers have rivalled or, indeed, overshadowed their Secretary of State. It was always the intention of the Reagan administration that the national security adviser should play a secondary role, and Mr Allen has satisfied this requirement well enough.

Then there is Mr Weinberger, who is a force in the conduct of foreign policy just as he is successful in resisting Mr Haig's encroachments into the defence field — an effectiveness which Mr Weinberger has demonstrated once again this week. But as Secretary of Defence, Mr Weinberger cannot run American foreign policy. He can be an important player in the game, but no more.

The presence of other players need not prevent a strong Secretary of State, enjoying the confidence of the President, from imposing a reasonable cohesion. It could lead to a constructive dialogue. But Mr Haig does not enjoy a sufficient degree of confidence from Mr Reagan to make him secure in his role and, in any case, he is not a good team man.

So Mr Reagan now has some critical decisions to make. He could install another Secretary of State with whom he would have a closer natural rapport, in which case the most likely, but not necessarily the best choice would be Mr Weinberger. Or the President could concentrate on making things work better with Mr Haig. In which case he must follow through his declared intention to cut out the feuding in his team. This would not be as easy as it sounds. It may now be too late to give Mr Haig the necessary influence and authority to be an effective Secretary of State.

But unless Mr Reagan follows one of these courses nobody will be sure who speaks with authority on American foreign policy. Each major decision will depend on the uncertain outcome of a new contest in the cockpit of pressure and persuasion. Which is not the best way to secure either consistent performance or the confidence of allies.

## Meg's fate: TV tycoons write off the viewers

On Wednesday, the eve of Bonfire Night, a furious blaze engulfed one of the most familiar sights on British television, that of the Crossroads motel. Meg Mortimer, the cliff-hanger heroine of Crossroads, 14 million viewers in suspense over this weekend is whether the owner of the motel, Meg Mortimer, has died in the blaze, or will be allowed to retire gracefully to distant shores.

These events are the climax of a "real life" plot which began on Monday, June 22, when the British public awoke to the startling revelation in the *Daily Mirror* that Meg's alter ego, Noelle Gordon, the star of ATV's long-running soap opera, had been sacked.

By early evening the event was high on the schedules of national television news. ATV had chosen not to renew the actress's contract and Charles Denton, the Director of programmes, became a hate figure to thousands of Crossroads fans. Next morning's popular press reacted with appropriate outrage.



Noelle Gordon: will Meg live or die?

Crossroads is a much-maligned programme, being at the same time enormously popular and devastatingly criticized. It has been running for 16 years, attracting large audiences and appearing high in the ratings, even though it is transmitted on different days and at different times throughout the country.

In a scheduled slot which anticipates that the audience will dip in and out of items, as in the short items in news magazine programmes, Crossroads can boast that it holds its audience's full attention.

Critics of the programme are easy to find but hard to pin down; often they are vague about the specific aspects which offend their sensibilities. The most familiar response from critics within broadcasting is a swift retreat behind the barricades of professionalism, whence they imply that they are operating with different criteria from those of the ordinary viewer.

If pressed, they are apt to come up with quite simple points which could easily be improved by the injection of a bigger budget in the programme. It is well-known that Crossroads has a low budget, a very fast turnover and that production staff and performers work very hard, at great speed, to create three episodes a week. Soap opera does not rate highly in the hierarchy when funds are allocated.

One woman wrote: "I always have a feeling that someone has 'the knife' in Crossroads because it is so popular." Another writer admitted to being puzzled about the decision taken to sack Gordon. "Surely the very fact of her popularity (Meg) and that of the programme is the only fact that counts. Why make changes to the format of a programme which has many, many times been proven to please the viewing audience, which I would have thought was the only opinion that counts."

Some letters were more indignant than upset: "I feel I must write and protest at the high-handed attitude of some television controllers. They seem to have forgotten that their job is to serve the public."

Actually, they have not forgotten at all, but television companies do seem to have difficulty in coming to terms with popular television. Time and again writers, producers, and performers create successful, popular programmes and then critics within their own industry shy away in horror as the programmes win popular acclaim.

When these critics seem to be saying is that they don't like the programmes they themselves make and, in effect, that they wish the rest of the television audience would not persist in wilfully watching them. But broadcasting is a business and it continues to see themselves as some sort of arbiter elegantium for all their viewers.

The popularity of a programme, like Crossroads, despite the unrelenting criticism it attracts, cannot be explained away as mere differences in professional or personal taste. The programme provokes a straightforward clash of cultures. What the critics are saying is: "I like this programme, and for the most part, it entertains me." The audience holds sheer entertainment value high on its list of priorities, yet the Rediffon legacy of the need for broadcasters to "educate, inform and entertain" seems to have left programme-makers with an

uneasy feeling about the status of entertainment and whose values it should reflect or represent.

Part of the wide appeal which Crossroads has for its audience is illustrated in the words of a compulsive viewer whom I interviewed: "It brings in every aspect of life, the poorer part and the rest, like Coronation Street as well. It does involve people getting drunk, having babies without being married and all this, that and the other. It is an everyday programme, you get involved in it. I mean, they have brought mugging into it. I haven't they? I think it's because they bring everything into it that it is so good."

Perhaps conventional notions of popular entertainment should be reformulated and extended to include more coverage of serious issues, even if it means trying to deal with today's problems and experiences — the stuff of soap operas. Crossroads does communicate with its audience and manages to present social problems in an acceptable form. It would perhaps be more positive to try to understand why Crossroads can attract such allegiance from its audience while handling such topics.

Since the news of the sacking of Noelle Gordon, ATV has been inundated with letters and telephone calls pleading that if Meg was to be written out of the serial, at least she should not have to die. Some of the letters suggested that any storyline which attempted to kill off the character would not be credible, since everyone now knew that the actress had been sacked.

An interesting dilemma now faces the programme controller and his producer, Jack Barton. If the character does die, then they will have carried out their original decision in the face of overwhelming public pressure and appeals. If we find that Meg is allowed to sail off happily into the sunset, however, they will be seen to have appeased their viewers by sparing her life.

Within the next few days we will know the fate of Meg Mortimer. Whether she lives or dies, the question she will leave behind concerns the accountability of television companies to their viewers. This may be the phoenix that will rise from the ashes of the old Crossroads Motel.

Dorothy Hobson

The author is engaged in research at the Centre for Contemporary Cultural Studies at the University of Birmingham. Her book *Crossroads: Anatomy of a Soap Opera*, will be published by Eyre Methuen in Spring 1982.



Walking for pleasure — but too often nowadays there are hazards on the way

## Why we need a walkers' charter

Conservation weaknesses apart, the Wildlife and Countryside Bill, which soon becomes law, is a disappointment to walkers. They see it as a lost opportunity.

More people are walking for pleasure. One reason is our greater leisure time. Another is the fact that it is so cheap: no costly equipment or special facilities required. Yet the walkers' domain is shrinking. The ever increasing numbers of cars have driven walkers off lanes that once were traffic-free and safe and on other byways they have to compete, unequally, with motor cyclists.

The Ridgeway, along the crest of the Berkshire Downs, is the most notorious example of this. When I last tried to walk it, it was a churned up morass and we had to leap into the hedge when a group of bikes came pounding and squealing by. We have had similar experiences recently on the Mole Valley in Snowdonia and in Derbyshire where motor cyclists were conducting speed trials.

The National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act of 1949 was supposed to have opened up most of upland Britain to the walker. In practice only a few national parks, such as the Peak District, and even fewer county councils have really worked to get access agreements to open country. The Aran Ridge in Snowdonia is a prime example. Here are two and a half miles of official "open country", a superb ridge walk, but walkers have no access to it because agreement cannot be reached with farmers whose land lies on the lower slopes. The result is that many famous walks are grossly overcrowded.

Walking receives little official recognition and few or no grants. One would have hoped, therefore, that the Wildlife and Countryside Bill would have redressed the balance. Because it has not, I would hope that the new Ministry of the Environment, which they are given more rights to better access, less interference, will crystallize around demands for a walkers' charter which could form the basis of future legislation.

I have already put the idea

to the Ramblers' Association, who like it. Here are 10 points which I think should be part of a walkers' charter — perhaps *Times* readers can suggest others.

Local authorities should be under a statutory duty to keep public footpaths — like roads — free of obstructions at all times. At the moment walkers are often faced with barbed wire, fallen trees, old bedsteads, dumps of rubbish, blocked ditches, broken bridges.

We need a simple, simple procedure so that farmers can make short footpath diversions for short periods to avoid essential farming activities such as ploughing or running a bull with cattle. In return for this inconvenience to the walker, it should be illegal for the farmer to obstruct the free use of a footpath unless a clearly marked diversion is provided.

Walkers should have the legal right to walk freely over any "open country", moorland, woodland, or publicly owned land, and along the coast, except where the owner has applied for a specific restriction. This would reverse the present position whereby a walker has right of access only where national park authorities and county councils have negotiated an agreement. Under the charter, the onus would be on the owner to prove that the walkers' presence was dangerous or destructive; not on the walkers, or their representatives, to prove them harmless.

Every local authority should have a duty to survey footpaths in its area and arrange to extend them or add new ones. If any path has to be closed for any reason, the authority should have the duty to provide a comparable new one in the same locality.

Local authorities should carry out their existing duty

to mark all footpaths where they join roads. In addition, they should have a new obligation to way-mark any footpath where the route is not clear.

The Ordnance Survey should produce within three years an up to date footpath map for every area. In some areas existing maps are hopelessly out of date and in others there are no footpath maps at all.

Action should be taken to minimize noise on footpaths. A simple code of conduct like the Country Code, well publicized and freely available, might do a lot in the cause of good manners and consideration for others.

An enforceable code of practice should be introduced to stop footpaths, green lanes, or ridgeways, being destroyed by motor cyclists, or owners of ORRVs (off road recreational vehicles). Getting a car and a motor cycle to the summit of half Snowdonia's mountains might be heroic, but when it becomes a regular occurrence it spells disaster for walkers.

Local authorities should be obliged to consider how country lanes could be made safe once more for walkers. This would be particularly welcome where short lanes could be linked with footpaths to provide an attractive pedestrian route.

Every local authority should appoint a footpaths officer to inspect paths in its area, offer advice and help to walkers and landowners alike, and organize local volunteers to maintain and improve paths.

No doubt many walkers will feel these suggestions do not go far enough; on the other hand many farmers and landowners may feel they go too far. I hope, though, that farmers will not oppose a walkers' charter because of the sins of the careless and inconsiderate minority. Perhaps walkers, as a *quid pro quo* for the farmers' cooperation, could offer a strengthened and enforceable Country Code for which farmers might like to make suggestions.

Andrew Bennett

The author is Labour MP for Stockport North.

## Taking the long and private road to Clevedon pier

Clevedon Pier on the Bristol Channel — according to the Victorian Society, "undoubtedly the most graceful pier in the country" — has changed hands yesterday. Woodspring District Council leased it for five years at a peppercorn rent to the Clevedon Pier Trust Ltd, a company set up to restore this romantic but decaying structure to its former glory.

In returning Clevedon's noble pier to the "private", or at least voluntary, sector, Woodspring is in effect reversing what a prominent local landowner, Sir Arthur Elton of Clevedon Court, did 90 years ago. As chief shareholder of the original pier company, he gave the pier to the Clevedon Local Board. Even then it was never the money spinner it promoters hoped that was why they were keen to dispose of it.

The 112-year-old pier that Woodspring have leased to the new company is also generally conceded to be no bargain, even at a peppercorn rent.

Though beautiful in silhouette at a distance, it is closed, derelict, and dangerous. In particular it lacks the whole spans which collapsed into the sea in 1974 when Woodspring's predecessor council were load-testing it for insurance purposes.

Clevedon's public opinion was, and still is, strongly in favour of restoring and using the pier. Councillors were not so sure. Their uncertainty coincided with the hiatus of local government reorganization, and for five years the local authority did little or no maintenance on this Grade II starred "listed building". Then in 1979 Woodspring decided to seek consent for its demolition.

There were objections, of course, and the ensuing public inquiry in Clevedon, supported by a technical group, convinced the inspector that "this exceptionally important building" with its "unique and delicate design" — it uses sections of Barlow rail, designed for Brunel's Great

Western Railway, as its horizontal members — should be preserved. They should, the inspector concluded, be given a chance "to work out and implement their proposals in detail".

So that is what the new pier company is doing, led by a board that includes two architects, a surveyor, a builder, and Lady Elton, widow of Sir Arthur's great-grandson, whose unique collection of industrial prints and documents is now at the Ironbridge Gorge Museum. The task is no light one. Estimates of the cost of restoration given at the inquiry ranged between £750,000 and £1m. Clevedon's will to keep its pier found concrete expression in an appeal fund, launched in 1974, which raised some £70,000.

The new company's directors are confident and determined. Apart from their collective expertise, they have a number of factors in their favour. First, Woodspring council has agreed to contribute towards the restoration

the sum — around £170,000 — which it would have otherwise had to spend on demolition. Second, an elegantly promoted but pitifully written book by one of their number, architect Keith Mallory, is bringing national support and may strengthen their hand in negotiations with such potential sources of funds as the National Heritage Memorial Fund and the Historic Buildings Council.

Mrs Jennifer Jenkins, chairman of the HBC, is sympathetic. She and her colleagues have no funds for piers this year, she says, but as soon as they have, Clevedon's will have priority.

A first step, already undertaken before the formal completion of the lease, was to obtain planning permission to use the pier's Victorian Gothic tollhouse with a refreshment stall alongside to refresh flagging energies and lend a modest extra boost to finances.

Much of the work in the five-year restoration project could be undertaken by Job

Creation labour, and the directors have been discussing this possibility with the Manpower Services Commission. MSC grants could be a crucial component of that daunting £1m.

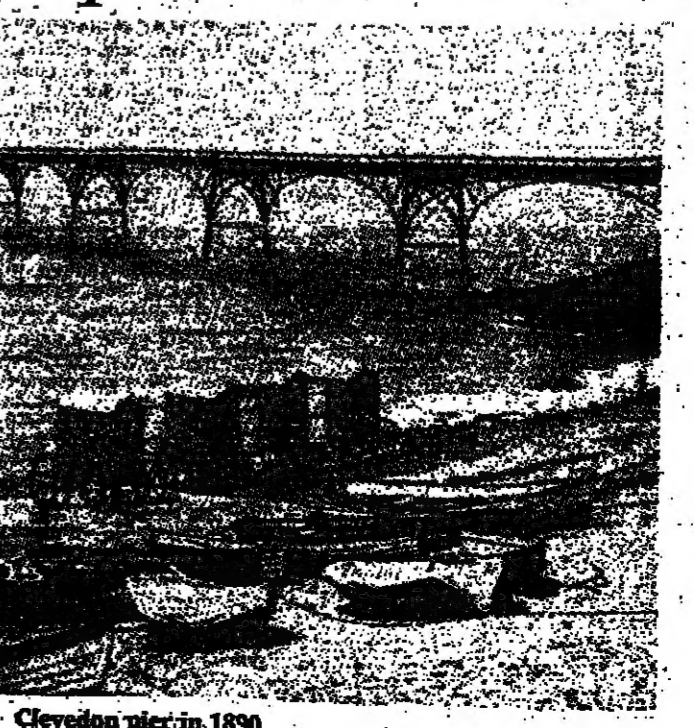
Once the pier is restored, the aim is to make it self-financing, earning enough money to pay for maintenance. Events like dances and wedding receptions will boost income as the trust promotes the pier as the place to hold a party and it becomes once more the social asset it was in its heyday.

One director, Michael Allman, thinks that despite the continuing threat of storm damage and corroding ironwork, the pier is already saved. Public opinion, he believes, has "turned a corner".

Despite the recession, the loss of this, the prettiest pier in England, is now unthinkable.

Tony Aldous

\*Clevedon Pier by Keith Mallory (Redcliffe Press, £6.50).



Clevedon pier in 1890



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## ANGLO-IRISH HARVEST

Dr FitzGerald has not been handed the opportunity (nor is it in his political style to manufacture it) that Mr Haughey was given, or took, a year ago to rouse exaggerated expectations in the Republic and thereby exaggerated fears in the North of Ireland. Yesterday's ceremonies were something of a harvest festival to put on display the fruits of the joint Anglo-Irish studies of the past year. As bitters such an occasion concord and peace reigned and the two principals engaged together in the political equivalent of prayer.

The sample fruits themselves look rather meagre. In the matter of bringing to justice terrorists who flee the jurisdiction the two sides have got no farther than putting their attorneys-general on to the problem together, although it has been a running sore for years, which the Republic's Criminal Law Jurisdiction Act has done little to mend. Nothing would do so much to sweeten the Republic in the nostrils of unionists, which it is Dr FitzGerald's declared ambition to promote, than the extradition by the courts of his country of criminals wanted in the North for crimes of terrorism. Even in the field of energy, where the lines of cooperation are most obvious and the subject matter most concrete, things are still at the stage of consideration, study or negotiation.

Working arrangements between the two governments are to be dignified and decorated by an Anglo-Irish inter-governmental council, a framework for the already regular meetings of ministers

and officials. This is not as much as Dublin would have liked, for it does not mesh Northern Ireland into the machinery. The question of a parliamentary element in the Anglo-Irish council, to which they attach great importance in Dublin, is being committed to the two parliaments for consideration.

Mrs Thatcher's graduation is sensible. There are practical difficulties in a parliamentary element inclusive of Northern Ireland. There is no provincial parliament at present. Representation of the nationalist community of Ulster at Westminster runs, to Mr Gerard Fitt, an admirable but now eccentric representative, and Mr Owen Carron, only one of the objections to whom is that Dr FitzGerald will not meet him if the net is spread as far as Strasbourg, only one more nationalist is brought in, Mr John Hume, along with Dr Paisley who would as soon sit in a consistory at Rome.

But the chief reason for not rushing ahead with a parliamentary component is that the elected representatives of Ulster unionism, the largest political constituent in the province and the one whose attitude the new council is intended to affect, are unlikely to agree to have anything to do with it until they can be confident that it is not part of a process of sapping away at the constitutional position of Northern Ireland.

The two prime ministers offered them some joint assurance by reiterating what is essentially the position reached at Sunningdale in

1973: the Taoiseach affirmed his country's ambition to secure "the unity of Ireland in agreement and in peace", and agreed with the proposition that any change would require the consent of the majority of the people of Northern Ireland; the Prime Minister affirmed the necessity for that consent precedent to any change, and added that were it to be forthcoming through the procedure laid down in the Constitution Act of 1973 the British Government would accept the decision and support legislation to give effect to it. On the merits of the issue, she remained non-committal. She did not give Ulster unionists that gentle push that Dublin asks of the British Government and the Labour Party here is now ready to administer. Nor on the other hand did she display any particular enthusiasm for the union. The words of the communiqué offer the correct assurances. But those words have not now the potency to banish unionist suspicions, only evidence of will can do that.

Yesterday's meeting leaves the "Irish question" where it was, and it must be said, where it is likely to remain while. But it has enlarged the two prime ministers' understanding of each other and adored, the already good working relations between the two governments and their officials. That in itself is a good day's work, and the symbolism as well as the kindness of the Taoiseach's visit to the bedside of the wounded Irish Guardsman is more eloquent than any communiqué.

## NO WAY TO POLICE THE PARISH PUMP

In rushing out the Local Government Finance Bill within three days of the start of the session, Mr Heseltine has boldly put its opponents in his own party on the spot. It was one thing for them to press to change the uniformed basis of a Bill not yet published, but it will be another matter to abstain or vote against it now.

A referendum may superficially seem admirably democratic. Councils wishing to raise more in rates than the limit prescribed on the basis of the machinery created by the 1980 Act would have to ask the consent of their electors before levying a supplementary rate. To concentrate voters' minds, the Government would be able to stipulate that the disenfranchised business ratepayer should pay less than his usual share of the supplementary rate, or even nothing at all. The Government calculates, no doubt correctly, that in most cases the electors will reject the council's appeal, thus forcing it to limit its spending to what Whitehall might sanction.

It is doubtful whether the plan will achieve the Government's declared aim to "constrain the overall level of local authority expenditure". The ceiling on initial demands will have to be set fairly high if the wayward assessment

machinery is not to penalize many inoffensive Tory councils. All councils will be tempted to spend right up to a ceiling which can be claimed to have official approval. The few councils which defiantly spend far beyond the levels that Governments have recommended will be turned into platforms for local politicians effectively freed from financial responsibility and only too eager to blame the Government for all shortcomings in local services.

Councillors' accountability to the ratepayers for how their money is spent is the essential factor in our system of local government. A referendum seeking to deny a council the resources to carry out a programme it may have been elected to fulfil only a few months before will tend to vitiate that local responsibility. In the urgency of its need to reassert control of the economy, the Government is allowing itself to be drawn into a misconceived constitutional attack on local government. Much public spending is in the local sector, and most councils have responded willingly to progressively more extreme demands for cuts. The extravagances of the few exceptions harshly affect their ratepayers, who will have their chance in time to make their comment at the polls. But the sum collected in rates has no effect at all on the money supply and the public borrowing requirement, the primary areas of the Government's justified concern to regain control of the economy.

But opponents of the new proposals must recognise that local government will always be vulnerable so long as its finance is based on property rating — a tax with many advantages, but one which simply cannot bear the burden of today's local services. Local government will not survive if it cannot be made more accountable to its electors, including the many who do not directly pay rates at all. This must mean either supplementing the rates with some other form of taxation, or replacing them with a locally-determined income tax.

The formidable problems of either course have defeated all comers over the years, but solutions have to be found. Mr Tom King apologetically assures us that the referendum scheme is only a temporary step towards long-term reform. There is nothing to say so in the Bill. Temporary steps of this kind, which seek to take off the pressure for a real solution to a fundamental problem, have an unhappy habit of becoming permanent.

## WHEN LOVE CONGEALS

The Scottish Law Commission has taken a bold stab at trying to resolve the irreconcilable differences that form when parties to a divorce start squabbling about money. The financial consequences of divorce arouse a passion which often exceeds that caused by the breakdown of the marriage itself. The reason, for the most part, is that there is not enough money to go around.

There is justice or injustice on both sides. Wives are often deserted and left to cope on inadequate maintenance while their husbands set up comfortable homes with their new partners. It is equally true that husbands and their new families can be crippled for years, even to the grave, by having to pay maintenance to their former wives, many of whom continue to live in the style to which the marriage had accustomed them. Many of the allegations and counter-allegations that are the norm in these disputes have their basis in the circumstances in which the break-up occurred.

The abolition of the "guilty" party in divorce may have simplified the law but it has not convinced those who believe themselves to have been the innocent partner and resent the other spouse getting away with his or her wrongdoing with financial impunity.

The Scottish Law Commission rightly rejects the "meal ticket for life" approach, which would impose on one of the spouses (in practice the husband) the continuing obligation to support the other even if the marriage no longer existed. The "clean break" approach would work injustice the other

way. The commission has opted for a compromise which would impose the obligation of maintenance for three years, after which it would cease, unless there were exceptional circumstances.

The Scottish compromise is well directed against those wives who regard maintenance as a pension and make no effort to create a new life and livelihood. It is generous to the small group of wives who leave their husband after a brief marriage and luxuriate in a new lover. But it would be harsh on very many other wives. Two separate considerations suggest that the simple three year rule is unjust. It is too short a period for those divorces which leave a wife with very young children who need constant care for four or five years or more. Maintenance for the mother is almost always the right person to look after the children and she should be financially assisted while she does it in their formative years.

The second consideration is more awkward for the three-year rule. Many a wife, by staying at home caring for children or even just devoting herself to her supporting her husband's career, thereby irretrievably diminishes her own career and expectations. Some very able barristers are locked into baby care and bedmaking when they might be blazing a trail to the bench, and everyone knows there are better managers marking time at home than going out to climb the ladders to the boardrooms. Of course, it might be said, such wives must share with the husband the penalties for the failure of the marriage.

And a brief interruption is a small penalty. But what of the career which is wholly sacrificed? Should not the husband have to accept some of the consequences of such a wife finding herself unemployed? A sense of fair play suggests he should.

The answer may lie in relating the cut-off period of maintenance to the length of marriage: rather, if it is not an immoderate comparison, in the way redundancy payments are related to years of service. Three months' entitlement for every year of marriage, for instance, would give the wife of a 20-year marriage a guarantee of five years of maintenance. This is fertile ground for actuarial equity. Certainly, the length of a marriage is a most important factor.

There is further reason for feeling the Scottish recommendation is unfair to wives. It is an unhappy fact, beyond the control of parties to a divorce, that it discriminates against women both in employment opportunities to which they have access, and in the rewards available to them when they find jobs. British employers, moreover, lag far behind many of their European and American counterparts in providing facilities, creches and the like, for the children of working mothers. Until more genuine equality of opportunity is achieved — and a recession works against that aim — there cannot be genuine sharing of child care. Women will continue to have to take the primary responsibility. Most of them do so willingly and happily, when things go wrong the law should err, if it errs at all, on their side.

## Local government spending curbs

From Professor G. W. Jones and Professor J. D. Stewart  
Sir, The Government is proposing a major constitutional change to meet an alleged problem of local government overspending in a particular year: the introduction of referendums as part of the process of budget-making in certain local authorities defined by criteria laid down by the Secretary of State. He has indicated that those powers will be used against only a few authorities who are spending well above his own view of what their expenditure should be.

It has been calculated that if the level at which a referendum was introduced were 40 per cent above present grant-related expenditure fewer than 20 major local authorities would be involved.

Apart from the grave constitutional issues that can be laid against the proposal, so well set out in your editorials of August 26 and September 26, it fails to achieve its stated purpose of controlling what the Secretary of State chooses to call over-spending by local government.

The alleged excess expenditure over any likely referendum level of those twenty authorities would go nowhere near the level of expenditure reduction he currently seeks, even if every one voted No in the referendum, and American experience suggests that some Yes votes are likely.

However, there will be another important effect. The Secretary of State has yet to learn that whatever targets may be set above the target, they encourage those under the target to come closer to the target. It becomes a norm. The vast majority of local authorities well below the referendum level will thus be encouraged to maintain or increase their expenditure.

The Secretary of State also proposes to allow some authorities whose electors at the referendum reject the supplementary rates, to borrow to meet their current expenditure commitments. He will thus support deficit financing in local government, which will be inflationary, increasing aggregate demand and the public sector borrowing requirement.

The Secretary of State is therefore forging an instrument which will not give him the results he wishes to achieve. He will be driven either to further change or to using the new instrument in ways that he has not even considered.

Just one year after the Local Government Planning and Land Act, the Secretary of State proposes further major legislation. We fear that next year he will have to recognise the failure of this new Act and prepare yet further hasty change in an area which cries out for stability. The answer lies not in continuing a panic ad hocery but in a fundamental change in the basis of local government finance. Until that is done there should be a moratorium on further change. Otherwise the Secretary of State will only make the situation worse for himself and for his Government.

Yours faithfully,  
G. W. JONES,  
Professor of Government,  
London School of Economics and Political Science,  
(University of London),  
Houghton Street, WC2.

J. D. STEWART,  
Professor of Local Government,  
Institute of Local Government Studies,  
University of Birmingham.

## Spying denial

From Mr Michael Straight  
Sir, In *The Times* (November 2) I am referred to as "an American who had spied for the Russians". This statement is simply not true.

I am an undergraduate at Cambridge. I was approached by Professor Hunt in 1957. It was his hope that I would provide economic appraisals from the vantage point of a Wall Street office house. I declined to do that.

During the brief period in which I was employed by the United States Government I did give my own appraisals of the political situation to gentlemen who called himself "Michael Green". They were based exclusively on my reading of newspapers and magazines, and they included a denunciation of the New Deal.

I did not seek, nor was I given access to any sensitive information. I did not provide any such information to Mr Green or to anyone else.

I went on my own initiative to the FBI in late 1963. As you note, I subsequently met on many occasions with British intelligence officers. I told them all that I knew.

Yours truly,  
MICHAEL STRAIGHT,  
5910 Bradley Boulevard,  
Bethesda,  
Maryland 20814,  
United States,  
November 3.

## Burdens and benefits

From Mr P. E. Taylor  
Sir, Your leading article "Burdens and benefits" (October 29), contains a not unexpected side reference to "public bureaucracy and the public monopoly of manning and over-rewards".

And this from a newspaper journalist. Does your hypocrisy know no bounds?  
Yours, etc.,  
P. E. TAYLOR,  
70 Haselworth Drive,  
Gosport,  
Hampshire,  
October 29.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Unresolved issues in Dr Arthur's case

From Professor J. K. Mason

Sir, It is perhaps dangerous to discuss the implications of a major case on the basis only of press reports. Nevertheless, within these limitations, the trial of Dr Arthur seems to have been unrewarding.

A conviction for murder or attempted murder surely implies some evil intent and this is an allegation which nobody could conceivably hold against Dr Arthur. The court alone has the verdict can never have been in doubt. Further, the original charge of murder, carrying with it an obligatory life sentence in the event of conviction, forced the accused to defend himself rather than his principles — a course which was probably available to Mr Bourne in 1939, when he tested the Infant Life (Preservation) Act in performing an abortion. The trial has, therefore, done nothing to establish what the public attitude to this facet of current medical practice.

There can be little doubt, however, that neglect of care leading to the death of someone to whom one has a duty of care would, in certain circumstances, come within the compass of culpable homicide. What was needed, and what could have been

decided in a trial for manslaughter, was an indication as to whether a doctor acting in good faith, as was Dr Arthur, is covered legally by what is effectively the doctrine of necessity. Do we, as a society, consider a "fruitless" life to be worse than no life at all and, if we do, are we happy to leave the definition of "fruitless" to individuals?

The medical "establishment" is clearly in favour of keeping the courts out of individual decisions in the "letting die" situation and this is surely right. But the requirement is for a clear legal direction as to the underlying and general propriety of taking such a decision. The incomprehensible policy decision to charge Dr Arthur with murder, rather than with a lesser offence which, in the event of conviction, would have attracted discretionary sentencing, has deprived us of such assistance. Presumably, someone will have to go through the whole thing again in the not too distant future.

I am, Sir, yours faithfully,  
J. K. MASON,  
Professor of Forensic Medicine,  
University of Edinburgh Medical School,  
Teviot Place,  
Edinburgh.

### Christians and the bomb

From Mr Walter Stein

Sir, Your editorial of October 24 performs an important service in considering Christian arguments for viewing a just nuclear war as a self-contradiction. One might add that these Christian perceptions remain at the roots of all civilized norms of defence in Western traditions.

The definitive relevant crux, here, is the immunity of non-combatants from military attack, even in a war wholly justified in the ends it sets out to defend. For such ends must include the rights of innocent lives to be unconditionally respected. Any deliberate attack on such lives therefore belongs not to lawful killing in a justifiable act of war but simply to the criminal category of murder.

The nuclear deterrence system depends upon declared, and carefully promoted, intentions to annihilate millions of innocent lives in certain circumstances. The whole chain of command, from the Government to the humblest agent in nuclear deterrent activities, depends upon the willingness to commit such genocide if all else fails. Thus our society, in so far as it condones this state of affairs, is here and now condoning mass murder of "assured destruction" of millions

and millions of dwellers on our globe. This unparalleled murderous intent is the foundation of all "deterrence" strategy. Who dares to say that the collection of cities we hold as hostages, lest the deterrent break down, are candidates for execution in the name of Christian values?

It is, however, a grave error to conclude that such perceptions nevertheless leave open a moral option to retain "deterrence". Precisely as a practical measure designed (among other things) to prevent the actual outbreak of such a war. Not only is it increasingly hazardous, as the arms race proceeds, to put our trust in this technological pragmatism to avert a catastrophe. History's recorded enormities justify the most shameful horrors by "reasons of state" — striving to press calculations of sheer expediency beyond any calculus open to human beings — have still not sufficed to teach their lesson. The salutary reminders of your editorial are apparently undercut by its conclusion.

"Moral conviction may dictate the objectives of policy, but it is no guarantee of sound political judgment and no substitute for an understanding of power politics in the present." Do sound political judgment and an understanding of power politics, condone our present condonation of the execution of cities under certain conditions?

Yours sincerely,  
WALTER STEIN,  
148 Curly Hill,  
Middleton,  
Ilkley, West Yorkshire.

### Historic interview

From Lady Mosley

Sir, Perhaps you will allow me to say why I am so anxious that the transcript of my late husband's interview with the House of Commons Committee in 1940 should be made available to his eldest son, my stepson, Lord Ravensdale, who is writing a memoir of his father. He has been told it will be available only after 100 years.

My husband and I were arrested in the summer of 1940 at a moment of general panic. All our possessions were searched, safes broken open and so forth. I welcomed this at the time, as I thought it would ensure our early release. I had four young children, the youngest a few weeks old on the day of my arrest.

Months and then years went by, and we remained in prison. As we had not been charged with an offence we were denied the luxury of trial. Instead, there was an advisory committee, chaired by Norman Birkett, KC. It was held in camera. He questioned Mosley for 16 hours, and at the end Mosley asked him if he might put a question to him. It was suggested that if the Germans invaded we should help them in some way? To which Birkett replied: "Sir Oswald, you can put any such idea right out of your head."

"For other words I am in prison for having advocated a negotiated peace, while Britain and the Empire are intact?"

"Yes," was the reply.

The House of Commons by R. R. Stokes, MP, (December 20, 1940).

Mosley had openly campaigned for a negotiated peace. He had spoken, at many meetings and

published his views in his paper, *Action*. Everything he did was in the open and no secret from anyone. As Lloyd George once said: "Is every politician who opposes a war during its progress necessarily a traitor?" If so, Chatham was a traitor, and Burke and Fox.

As we were held in silent prison for several years, there is no doubt that many of our fellow countrymen thought we had done something dishonourable. We were finally released and put under house arrest in November, 1943, because my husband was gravely ill with pleuritis. He had lost four stone in weight and gave the doctors a fright.

The disastrous war, 1939-45, was ghastly. The dead numbered many millions. Nevertheless 100 years is too long to allow injustice to fester for Mosley's family.

My husband's peace campaign was during the "phoney war". When the real war began he published this message in *Action*: "According to the press stories concerning the invasion of Britain are being circulated, in such an event every member of British Union would be at the disposal of the nation. Every one of us would resist the foreign invader with all that is in us. In such a situation no doubt exists concerning the attitude of British Union (May 9, 1940)."

A fortnight after these words were published *habeas corpus* was suspended, and Mosley was arrested, and I and my sons and stepsons would welcome the light shed in this murky corner.

Yours faithfully,  
DIANA MOSLEY,  
1 rue des Lacs,  
91400 Orsay,  
Essonne,  
France,  
November 4.

### Unification Church

From Professor R. V. Jones, FRS

Sir, According to your columns of November 3, Mr Tim Brinton has named me in Parliament as being expected to attend the International Conference on the Unity of the Sciences in Seoul later this month. "Based on information supplied by Mr (Casey) McCann".

Not only am I not going this year but I declined to go to the two previous conferences, as Mr McCann should have known, for my refusal of the invitations, including that for this year, was fairly widely reported in the press. Moreover, two years ago I wrote to Mr Moon, telling him that much as I valued the excellent conferences organized by his International Cultural Foundation I could not attend any more so long as the American component of the Unification Church continued to persuade British students to break off their university careers, causing inconvenience to universities and pain to parents, as well as prejudicing their own futures.

Although several students have returned to Britain as a result of intervention, the position is still unsatisfactory. It is, however, regrettable — if your report is

correct — that Mr McCann in his understandable anxiety to see further students return should be so heedless of the facts as to have had pilloried in Parliament those whose quieter and less "orchestrated" efforts have perhaps been less unsuccessful than his own.

Yours faithfully,  
R. V. JONES,  
as from 8 Queens Terrace,  
Aberdeen.

### Point of precedence

From Mrs Margaret Lane

Sir, Now that the expectation of a Wales baby has been announced, and before the birth while we are still ignorant of whether it will be a boy or a girl I suggest it is time to amend the laws of inheritance in accordance with today's climate and equal opportunities legislation. The firstborn ought to be sovereign irrespective of sex; it is only fair, and after all, in our history, queens have made just as good a job as kings of ruling — if not better.

Yours faithfully,  
MARGARET LANE,  
5 Cavendish Gardens,  
Sneyd Park,  
Bristol,  
November 5.

### Iranian Studies decision

From Dr F. R. Allchin, FBA

Sir, Of course the Cambridge Oriental Faculty slipped up (*The Times*, October 24) — they underestimated the number of their colleagues who would vote for any cause, so long as they had no responsibility for its implementation. But is not *The Times* slipping too?

It is common knowledge in these parts that the members of our Faculty Board are Fascist Beasts, and doubtless they are happy to receive the further accolade of Stalinists. It is less widely known that the faculty office contains a cupboard housing a variety of oriental instruments of torture. These we use to discipline any unruly younger members who have the temerity to hold views differing from our own. Nor is it generally appreciated that we have a number of sinister resorts in the remotest corners of the Orient, to which we are wont to banish these young puppets (or rather, we did banish them until the university suspended the Travelling Expenses Fund).

Equally we accept that we are incorrigible Philistines, having in our midst such dubious characters as the President of the Pali Text Society, and (mirabile dictu) a founder trustee of the Ancient India and Iran Trust, recently set up to provide independent support for Indian and Iranian languages, historical and archaeological research in the face of their longstanding neglect by almost everyone else!

We do from time to time learn of events in the world outside and we try to respond to them. Our decision about the future of Iranian Studies was not made hastily in the panic of current financial pressures. Rather it was part of a carefully planned policy. There is a national demand for speakers of certain languages (Arabic, Chinese and Japanese, for example) which expresses itself, among other ways, in the numbers of young people who apply to read them.

We flatter ourselves that our courses have educational value, not least because we are trying to integrate the contributions of groups of teachers to provide breadth and balance. We believe that for undergraduates such courses are to be preferred to exposure to a single teacher, no matter how eminent, throughout all of three years. Thus we aim to provide our students with a sound basis for a career outside the university or for further specialization.

Like every other university and department or faculty we are faced by the unpalatable facts of life: if we are to make good use of scarce resources we have to decide on priorities, and some things will have to go. But, Sir, it is surely churlish to suggest, as did your intemperate and unhelpful leader, that anyone of us can agree to delete a subject from our records, two graduates in the past 10 years! Therefore we stand by our decision.

Yours faithfully,  
F. R. ALLCHIN,  
Faculty of Oriental Studies,  
Sidgwick Avenue,  
Cambridge,  
November 3.

### Crumbs from the table?

From Mr Michael R. Bond

Sir, You report (November 4) that the sum charged by Mrs Thatcher for her pre-Queen's Speech dinner was £23.50. The sum paid for a week's work on a Government special employment scheme?

I also find it barely credible that those who spend more on an evening meal than most of us spend on a family's food for a week can believe that it is our pay levels which are the cause of the country's economic plight.

On this date I am drawn to the conclusion that Guy Fawkes had the right idea.

Yours faithfully,  
MICHAEL R. BOND,  
5 Church Road,  
Newton Abbot,  
South Devon,  
November 5.

### A sound of fairness

From Mr Philip Goldenberg  
Sir, I entirely agree with Professor Norman MacKenzie (November 2) that the term "proportional representation" is decidedly ungainly. Even less gainly, however, is the full title of the best system, namely "proportional representation by the single-transferable-vote-in-multi-member-constituencies".

Hence the adoption by electoral reformers of the expression "Supravote", implying (rightly) a vote which gives not only proportionality between political parties but also power to the electors to choose between different candidates of the same party.

Yours faithfully,  
PHILIP GOLDBERG,  
White Rose Lane,  
Woking,  
Surrey,  
November 3.

### Taken in vain

From Mr Robert Robinson  
Sir, The Rev W. T. Armstrong (October 31) criticises my use of the word "theological" to characterize a discussion of whether "dog's breakfast" or "dog's dinner" is the correct expression.

The adjective seemed the right one, since the distinction is immaterial.

Yours faithfully,  
ROBERT ROBINSON,  
18 Cheyne Row, SW3,  
October 31.



# Saturday Review

Ah, But Your Land is Beautiful: An extract from Alan Paton's new novel

## It is the time to turn and fight

It is the fifties in South Africa. The Nationalist Government has introduced the Bantu Education Act to separate black and white schoolchildren. For white liberals, such an Act is not something simply to protest about. But they can expect little sympathy from the blacks. Alan Paton's novel thinly disguises the political figures in South Africa at that time.



### The characters

● The white headmaster: Robert Mansfield, head of Newcastle High School and a former cricketer for South Africa. He is under attack from the Department of Education for organizing mixed race cricket matches.

● The black headmaster: Wilberforce Nhlapo, head of the neighbouring J. F. Hofmeyr High School, from which the black cricketers come. A political conservative whom the system suits.

● The black schoolmaster: Dlamini, a science teacher at J. F. Hofmeyr, who criticizes his headmaster and resigns his post in protest against apartheid and the Bantu Education Act. A Congress hard-liner.

● The black messenger of the court: Nene, a black liberal who is impressed by Mansfield's example, and is toying with joining the mixed race Liberal Party despite pressure from other blacks.

The resignation of Mr Robert Mansfield from the headmastership of the high school has come as a shock to the people of Newcastle, pleasant to some, unpleasant to others. The parents are more or less divided into two equal parties: the one totally opposed to the headmaster's racial experiments, the other not necessarily all in favour but unanimous in their high opinion of his headmastership.

The majority of those citizens who are not parents are glad to see him go. They do not all agree with Mr. Barend Coetzee, who has told Mansfield that he was a 100 years before his time, some of them reckon that his time will never come, that the Government, and especially the powerful Dr Hendrik, have a master plan for the total separation of the races, not for a 100 years, but for ever.

The school is not so sharply divided. There are a few boys and girls who are glad to see him go, and most of these are the sons and daughters of parents who find the racial experiments abhorrent. But most of the boys are full of regret to lose a headmaster who has played cricket for South Africa, and as for the girls, many of them have been in love with him in school days, which is not altogether surprising, for he is a handsome man.

And what has he resigned for? The newspapers have asked him, of course, but he has refused to tell them until the day after he leaves the service of the Education Department. This gives credence to the rumour that he is going into politics, and that he is going to join the new Liberal Party.

The party has attracted a fair number of whites who would call themselves liberals, including the redoubtable Margaret Ballinger, one of the three members of Parliament elected by those black voters who, in 1956, were removed from the common roll, in return for their removal they were given three white MPs, and the black voters of Cape Eastern chose Margaret Ballinger to represent them.

She is one of the finest brains in the House, and has energy to match her intelligence. The Liberal Party considers itself lucky and privileged to have her.

The Liberal Party has had a contemptuous reception from the ruling Nationalist Party. Indeed, some Nationalists are implacably hostile and want it to be made a criminal offence to oppose the policies of separate coexistence. They regard the establishment of a non-racial party as a flagrant defiance of the powers-that-be. Most other white South Africans are hostile also, because, while they reject certain forms of racial discrimination, they really cannot approve of cooperating with other races to fight it. The African Congress, and still more the Indian Congress, accuse the new party of undermining the Congress front.

Most hostile of all is the white Congress, which is strongly Marxist, and regards concern about civil rights as almost irrelevant in a war situation. Their hostility is understandable, because the Liberal Party has

expressed its condemnation of all forms of totalitarianism, including communism and fascism.

— I understand what you are doing, Robert, and I admire you for it, but I am isolated all the same. You know it is my weakness to lean on you, and whom shall I lean on now?

— I thought of you a great deal before I did it. I had to ask myself which was more important. You and I have tried to bring our schools and our children closer together, but now our attempts have been forbidden by both our departments. What was more important, for me to stay here to comfort you, or to go out and fight on a national platform for the things we believe in?

— You don't need to explain it to me, Robert. But Elizabeth and I are going to miss you, and Naomi... sorely.

— But at least you haven't got Dlamini to contend with. Tell me, why did he resign?

— He didn't tell me, but I assumed it was because he refused to teach under Bantu Education. The Security Police wanted to know too.

— So they've been to see you.

— For two days running. They searched Dlamini's house from top to bottom. They asked me why he resigned. I said I had heard that he had been offered a job as an industrial chemist in Durban. But they didn't believe me. They asked me his views on Bantu Education, and what he thought of Dr Hendrik. I told them that he didn't approve of Bantu Education, but that I had never heard him speak about Dr Hendrik. Then they wanted to know why he disapproved of Bantu Education, and I said it was his opinion that it was an inferior education, and furthermore that the insistence on home language as the medium of instruction up to Standard Six simply meant that no black child could ever become a scientist or a mathematician.

Then they asked me if I agreed with him, and I said that this was the opinion of the majority of black teachers of Science and Mathematics, and that I agreed with them. Then the black man took over, and asked if I was ashamed of the Zulu language. Robert I nearly laughed, but decided not to. I said no, I was very proud of it, and I wanted all my pupils to speak it well and to write poems and stories in it, but it was not the language of Science and Mathematics, no more than English is the language of cattle and grass and herbs. Then this black fellow asked me what I thought of Dr Hendrik and I told him that my opinion was my own, and that in any case I was not a great talker about other people.

— Good for you, Wilberforce. How did they take that?

— Not well at all. The white fellow said to me that where the security of the State was concerned, no-one's opinions belonged to himself, and that it was the duty of the Security Police to know everyone's opinions, and that it was the duty of every person to let the Security Police know what his opinions were. I wanted to say he was talking rubbish, but I thought I had

better not. I just said I did not believe that. I believed that every man and woman had a right to privacy, just so long as they were not using their privacy to break the law.

This white fellow said to me that a court of law might decide that my views were subversive and that I had better be careful. I said the big trouble was that the court of law was no longer allowed to judge such matters. It was decided by the Minister of Justice acting on the advice of the Security Police. The white fellow was now getting angry, and he asked me what I said. I said I said that the quality of human beings when they are at their brightest and best.

— Mind you, the fact must be faced that many black people don't think white people have any *ubuntu* at all. They think the laws show this clearly. The law for example that does not give teacher Mr. Mazibuko the human right to have his widowed mother to come to live with him, because her home is in Esbawee, and her son is in Newcastle, and he is in Newcastle only because he is a teacher, and teachers are not subject to the stringent regulations that control the movements of African people into other areas. Or it would be truer to say, the Bantu Education Department is not subject to these regulations.

However, the widowed mothers of teachers are subject to them. Black people are at a complete loss to understand how this can be, because such laws were unknown in their societies. But they do not protest, except to one another. Indeed to whom else could they protest?

But one must also face the fact that many white people don't think that the black people have the quality of *ubuntu* either.

I was now almost at the end of my patience. You have never had this experience, Robert, of being interrogated by two hard and determined and limited men, who have sold themselves body and soul to this terrible machine that has no mercy. I regard these men as my inferiors, but I must sit for hours and be questioned by them. The white fellow I understand. He is defending his people and his language and his power and his children. The black one I do not understand at all. I want to say to him, Come and see me one day because I want to understand why you take a job like this!

— Then they get up to go, and the white man says to me, Nhlapo — not Mr. Nhlapo, not Headmaster, just Nhlapo — watch your step, we know everything that goes on here. Then they drive away and I think immediately of Dlamini, and I feel pity for him, because they'll get him one day, that's for sure.

Robert Mansfield, because he could speak and write Zulu, had quite a standing in the African community of Newcastle and the district. He was also known to be friendly with Mr. Nhlapo the headmaster of the J. F. Hofmeyr

High School, not the kind of friendliness where a white man writes a letter to a black man and starts it off with the word Greetings, but the kind where the white man and his wife call the black man and his wife by their first names, and visit them often.

Now Mr. Nhlapo was held in very high respect by the black people of the district, and if he and his wife could go to the house of the white headmaster for dinner, then the white headmaster and his wife must be human beings, they must have the quality of *ubuntu*, which is the quality of humanness, the quality of human beings when they are at their brightest and best.

— Mind you, the fact must be faced that many black people don't think white people have any *ubuntu* at all. They think the laws show this clearly. The law for example that does not give teacher Mr. Mazibuko the human right to have his widowed mother to come to live with him, because her home is in Esbawee, and her son is in Newcastle, and he is in Newcastle only because he is a teacher, and teachers are not subject to the stringent regulations that control the movements of African people into other areas. Or it would be truer to say, the Bantu Education Department is not subject to these regulations.

However, the widowed mothers of teachers are subject to them. Black people are at a complete loss to understand how this can be, because such laws were unknown in their societies. But they do not protest, except to one another. Indeed to whom else could they protest?

But one must also face the fact that many white people don't think that the black people have the quality of *ubuntu* either.



The publication of 'Cry, the Beloved Country' in 1948 drew the world's attention to the plight of non-whites in South Africa. It was the first novel of Alan Paton, who was to become a leading member of the South African Liberal Party and a virulent critic of apartheid. In 1960 the South African regime confiscated his passport. Ah, But Your Land is Beautiful is the first novel in an intended trilogy.

Black people are cruel and merciless and will rise up tomorrow and kill everybody, as they killed Sister Alden in East London. These white people have not heard of Mrs. Theresa Ganyile of that same city, who hid Inspector Pieter de Vries in her bedroom when he was in danger of his life, but luckily the angry mob went down another street otherwise she would have been in danger of her life also. Or maybe these white people have heard of Mrs. Ganyile, but she is the exception that proves the rule of their fears.

Will these people ever overcome their fears of one another? Well, that's a problem, and it exercises the minds of Robert and Naomi Mansfield, so much so that he has given up his job to join the Liberal Party, and she, after her husband's resignation, has resigned her job as a teacher. There is one thing more. This white headmaster has more than once taken his boys and girls up to Ingogo to play cricket and hockey against Mr. Nhlapo's boys and girls. Then the Department of Education forbade him to do it any more, and he has resigned. Nevertheless his knowledge of the black world is still limited, but he is shortly to have it considerably extended.

— Mr. Mansfield, a Mr. Emmanuel Nene to see you.

— Mr. Nene? Who is he?

— He says he is the messenger of the court. But his visit is private, and if you would like him to come after school he would willingly do so.

— No, no, let him come now.

Mr. Nene was not a big man, but he had a fine big moustache. He wore riding breeches and short leggings halfway to the knees, and he carried in his hand a magnificent hat with Texan and South American connections. He appeared to be in his early thirties and he advanced on Mansfield with a confident smile, holding out his hand with every confidence that such an action would not be regarded as presumption by the headmaster.

— Mr. Nene, sit down.

— Mr. Nene sat down and surveyed the office with his confident smile.

Call me Emmanuel. That is what my father called me. It means, but you probably know, God with us. As far as I am concerned, my father was right, for God has been with me. And I am coming here today to hope that he will be with you also.

— So you are not a messenger of the court?

Mr. Nene's eyes widened at such ignorance, and he smiled too at it, but very tolerantly.

— I do not go to white people as messenger of the court, Mr. Mansfield. I go to black people, not coloured people or Indian people or white people.

His eyes widened again as he prepared to instruct the headmaster in the intricacies of his profession.

— Could I come here to your office and tell you that you must be at D Court at nine o'clock tomorrow morning? Oh no, I could not do that. Or could I come to your house and take away your car because you have not yet obeyed the decision of the court to pay a fine of 20 pounds? Oh no, I could

not do that. But I can go to Headmaster Nhlapo and tell him to be at the court.

Mr. Nene laughed with amusement at what he had to tell next.

— I was once sent by mistake to Mr. Ebrahim, the big merchant with the big house and the big car. He did not like being summoned by an African Messenger who had only enough money to buy a motorcycle. Now in Mr. Ebrahim's car he can roll down the windows if he is hot, and he can roll them up if he is cold. But there are no windows in my motorcycle, only fresh air. So he complained, and they sent him a white messenger.

— Then tell me, Mr. Nene, I mean Emmanuel, why have you come to see me?

— I'll tell you that. I've come to see a man who resigns his job because he does not wish to obey an order that will prevent the children of his school from playing against the children of Mr. Nhlapo's school. I want to see what this man looks like. We are not used to seeing such people.

— It is not quite true that I resigned because of that order. I resigned because I think it is time to go out and fight everything that separates people from one another, and especially people of one colour and one race from people of another colour and race.

— I am not foolish, Mr. Mansfield. You must not think, because I have this big hat and wear these riding trousers and ride round on a motorcycle, that I am foolish.

Mr. Nene laughs cheerfully at such a proposition.

— Perhaps you think I am foolish because I work for a government that sends white men to summons white men and black men to summons black men. Perhaps then you would be right. But I understand very well that you have not resigned just over a game of football. And I want to see what you look like, for a special reason.

— Well, how do I look? Like a knight in shining armour?

— Like a what?

— A knight. K-n-i-g-h-t.

— Oh yes, a man on a horse.

— Yes, and his armour is shining because he is going out to do brave deeds.

Mr. Nene was suddenly serious, but even when he was serious, he smiled his innocent smile.

— Yes, you look like a knight in shining armour. But you are going to get wounded. Do you know that?

— I expect that may happen.

— Well, you expect correctly. In my work I see a lot of white people. They talk freely in front of me because in a way I am not there. They do not like what you are doing. They did not like what you were doing before, but when the Director of Education said no more games, they thought you would stop, and they wanted you to stop, because you are a good cricketer and a good headmaster. But you don't stop and so they are forced to do something they do not like to do at all, they are

forced to say that a good cricket player is not always a good South African.

Mr. Nene smiled deprecatingly and smoothed his moustache.

— Now you know that rugby and cricket are the white man's religion, and it is a terrible thing when you find out that a man who is good in your religion is against the colour bar. Because rugby and cricket and the colour bar are really the same thing. That's why the All Blacks leave the Maoris at home when they come to play the Springboks. That's why no black man has ever been allowed onto a white cricket club, and no black man has ever become a Springbok. Am I right?

— Your language is picturesque, Emmanuel. When you say that rugby and cricket and the colour bar are really the same thing, then I understand what you are saying, but I don't say it like that.

Mr. Nene acknowledged the criticism cheerfully.

— I am picturesque, Mansfield laughed.

— I said your language is picturesque, but you are quite right, you are picturesque too. What is the special reason that made you come to see me?

— I understand that you are resigning to join the Liberal Party.

— I am not saying till I have left the service.

— But you must tell me. It is important to me to know. It might change my life.

— Yes, I am going to join the Liberal Party.

— I am thinking of the same thing.

— You're going to wear the shining armour too?

— Yes. And I'm going to get wounded also. Not only by the Government, but by my own people as well. Just like you. Some of them will say, Why don't you stay with your own people? Why don't you join the Congress? Why get mixed up with these white people, who are rich while you are poor? There's your bell, so I must go.

— I must go, too. Thank you for your visit. You must come to visit us. My wife will be glad to meet you.

Mr. Nene rose, and looked cheerfully around him.

— I don't worry about the wounds. When I go up there, which is my intention, the Big Judge will say to me, Where are your wounds? and if I say I haven't any, he will say, Was there nothing to fight for? I couldn't face that question.

Mr. Nene left his aura in the headmaster's office. Mansfield, who was sometimes troubled by the magnitude of his decision, felt a burst of hope for the future. He felt that he had experienced an *nhlanhla*, a sudden stroke of fortune, in the strange person of a messenger of the court, a small man with a big hat and a big moustache.

He had in fact had an encounter with the light. It was not the kind of thing to expect in Newcastle.

Alan Paton's *Ah, But Your Land is Beautiful* will be published on November 12 by Jonathan Cape, price £6.95.





# Alan Howard

who plays Richard II  
at the Aldwych on Tuesday

The *Richard III* double which Alan Howard is about to bring to the RSC's Aldwych repertoire from Stratford and Newcastle would seem to be unique in recent theatrical history. Ian McKellan doubled *Richard II* and *Edward II* for Prospect a decade or so ago, and Ian Holm progressed to *Richard III* through *Hamlet* and *Henry V*, but the actual combining of the *Richards* was more a scheduling convenience than an act of Shakespearean logic, as Howard explains.

"We're not claiming any great connections, though one of course gets us into the history cycle and the other gets us out of it. *Richard III* is about a golden world which falls apart, *Richard II* about a jet-black world which also falls apart in a last bloodbath. But these two totally different plays were written within a year of each other, albeit for totally different markets. *Richard II* is a perfect piece of sublime poetry; a writer's play, intended for the Inns of Court. *Richard III* was written for the actors at the Globe, and it's a populist piece, full of sex and violence and brazen vulgarity designed for the market place. *Richard II* is like a beautiful yacht which glides through the water; *Richard III* is like some awful old rug crashing through the waves."

Howard reckons that these two Terry Hands productions were not in fact helped by originally opening on two consecutive nights at the end of last year in Stratford. "We had *Richard II* ready and that was reasonably well received, but *Richard III* still needed a lot of work, and in fact that only finally came together in Newcastle where we were playing in March. Somehow the theatre there suited the production better, and people got to grips with the play's rough black humour. Winter in Newcastle is less cushy than in Warwickshire or London, and that play about the urgency of survival makes more sense up north than it does to an audience of well-fed tourists."

Coming as it does after the *Henry VI* cycle, the *Richards* mark the end of Howard's current age of Kings, though he still has *Henry IV* and *John* to do.

"It's not yet; I really do feel now that I must break away from Shakespeare after this Aldwych season, and luckily I have the chance to do that with C.P. Taylor's *Good* which we've only been able to do spasmodically at the Warehouse but which must now get a proper run somewhere in the spring; it's one of

the best modern plays I've come across" (an opinion shared by this critic, and I would guess several others) "and far too good to lose after just a few performances at the Warehouse this summer. One of the problems with the RSC at the moment is that we really are pushing work through very fast, some of which needs and deserves to stay around longer. And begin to feel that at 44 I really have to get away for a while, to see what life is like in the cold world outside."

"Once you get locked into a company like the RSC it really is hard to escape. You start a cycle of work in a London rehearsal room in January, take it to Stratford for the rest of that year, then you play Newcastle in the winter, come back to the Aldwych in the spring and that's two years of your life gone every time you take on a new batch of plays."

"The trouble is that for an actor to survive he needs to be very selfish, to do only what he knows is right for him, and it's often impossible to accommodate that within the needs of a major company cross-casting shows on three or four different London and Stratford stages. So occasionally you end up doing things which make sense in company terms, but are personally a great mistake; it's often too easy to be persuaded into something by the administration, particularly an administration already struggling with terrible financial and casting difficulties."

"There's also a terrible danger there of being cut off from the real world for months at a time; doing that spy series for ITV I suddenly realised that it had been years since I'd picked up a glass of whisky or a telephone as an actor. When they said 'espionage' I at once thought of lovely Berlin and Paris locations, but we ended up in the back streets of London. Still at least I was allowed to wear trousers."

It would be hard to come from a more theatrical background than Howard's. His father was Arthur Howard, his uncle was Leslie Howard and his great aunt was Fay Compton, yet because he was brought up largely in Scotland by his mother's father, Compton Mackenzie, he has always retained a curious kind of distance, preserving like Scofield a kind of personal air space all around himself.

"I don't see myself fitting easily into any kind of acting generation, or having come from a particularly definable background. I'm only a year or two younger than Albert Finney or Alan Bates but they've



Alan Howard as Richard II: "I must break away from Shakespeare"

somehow always seemed to me a whole generation ahead because they made it so much earlier. Then I look around me at the RSC and see a whole marvellous younger generation led by people like Michael Pennington, but I've never really known where I fitted into the scheme of things. I know I'm totally unknown on film and in America, only vaguely familiar on television."

"I suppose in a way my Stratford generation was the first one not to be picked up by the moguls; before then, all these Hollywood men would come over and buy up people like O'Toole after they'd done a year at Stratford, but later, as the Hall ideas of a permanent company grew into the

Numm continuum, the Company became predominant and the offers stopped coming in. At first I was very conscious of not being 'a star' in my old family-background sense, but then I began to realize that those days were gone forever, and that for a Shakespearean (which is what I fundamentally am) the RSC was the best place in the world to be."

"I plan to continue at the Shakespeare game forever. I couldn't let two years go by without doing at least one. After all, he is the final test; with a lot of other authors you can sometimes coast along, with Shakespeare you have to give it everything."

Sheridan Morley

## New York/John Heilpern Nickleby's Broadway medley

Ladies and Gentlemen of the jury, it was a fine, bright, honest day when circumstances compelled me to report, in some anger and regret, that *The New York Times* had seen fit to offer qualified and even insulting judgment upon our great national treasure, namely the Royal Shakespeare Company's production of *Nickleby*. Now playing to packed and overjoyed audiences on Broadway. Worse: in reporting the said event I now stand accused of being a spoilsport by reporting the existence of the mixed review in the first place, and here we get to the nub of the case.

I over-estimated the power and importance of *The New York Times*, for I had written that its drama critic is so influential his judgment can virtually ensure the success or failure of a Broadway show.

To the first charge, though I understand that national pride was at stake and that *Nickleby* had been declared the toast of the town, I plead innocence. But I over-estimated the power and importance of *The New York Times*, for I had written that its drama critic is so influential his judgment can virtually ensure the success or failure of a Broadway show.

For what, members of the jury, is the moral of *Nickleby* if not that justice and generosity of spirit go hand in hand and that both, in spite of the twists and turns of fate, shall prevail?

I now proceed to the prosecution's rotten, evil case. Thus, the American newspaper *Variety* has written at some length that the influence of *The New York Times* is in fact "not decisive" and that my own report on the matter was "unrealistic" and "naive". Worse things have been said about me in better places. But I must turn to the facts of the case and call Ms Lauren Bacall as my first witness for the defence.

Miss Bacall, you will recall, appeared in the Broadway show *Applause*, which was a musical about the opening night of a Broadway show. On the night of the imaginary opening, the cast huddled tensely around the press reviews. "It's OK," Bacall yells. "God loves us!" The imaginary show is certain of success in this case, God was the critic of *The New York Times*.

Why, members of the jury,

must this be so? I now call a star witness: Logic. *The New York Times* exists as the supreme power in Broadway theatre because there is no real alternative to it. Imagine, if you will, the same situation in London. Suppose there were no alternative to this newspaper and to the judgment of the good Irving Wardle. That is, no *Guardian*, *Daily Telegraph* or *Financial Times* to offer alternative views and guidance to serious theatregoers. If that were the case, Mr Wardle would surely have more sleepless nights than usual — for he, and he alone, would virtually be arbiter of public taste.

So in New York the public follows the pronouncements of its only major cultural outlet to the extent that if *The New York Times* declares baked zucchini to be "in", thousands of diet-conscious readers will follow as surely as theatregoers will await the verdict of its drama critic before committing themselves to a show. In which regard, I call Sir Peter Hall and Mr Ian McKellan.

When Sir Peter's production of *Amadeus* toured outside New York, Mr McKellan and the cast were given standing ovations each night. But when *Amadeus* previewed on Broadway, to the panic and bewilderment of almost everyone, the ovations suddenly stopped. The explanation was simpler: audiences were awaiting the judgment of *The New York Times*. For the day after its enthusiastic review, the standing ovations began. It is why the traditional opening night party on Broadway is in itself an absurd symbol of the commercial Broadway system, for hovering over any party and the fate of any show is always the arrival of the first edition of *The New York Times*, bringing tidings of life or death, profit or bankruptcy.

Members of the jury, I have witnessed famous Broadway actors who, reading a bad review, contemplate a return to the restaurant business while the producers convene plate jumping off Brooklyn Bridge.

No doubt the prosecution will shortly tell you that the potency of *The New York Times* is balanced by the power of mass advertising, television reviewers, weekly journals, word of mouth, and the like. Up to a point, but I now call the recently departed producers and stars of a new Broadway play called *Einstein and the Polar Bear*. As for *Einstein*, the drama critic of the *NY Times*, Mr Frank Rich, said in his erudite way

what amounted to "get this show off". And the show duly closed four performances later.

I now call Peter Brook, for it was he, examining what he termed "deadly theatre" in his book, *The Empty Space*, who pointed out that New York has potentially one of the best theatre audiences in the world, but it seldom goes because the prices are too high.

Though *Nickleby* received more advance publicity — including the cover of *Time Magazine* — than any show within memory, during the week the theatre was only 38.5 per cent full.

Which brings me to Mr Rich's crucial opening night review in the *NY Times*. Concerning my review of the review, *Variety* tells us that I speculated whether the Rich notice might cut short the show's run. Members of the jury, this will surely try your patience but you will doubtless recall that I wrote exactly the opposite. Mr Rich's half-hearted review will not kill the show," I wrote. "The limited season of the \$4.2m production makes *Nickleby* a special case."

There, in all conscience, I might have good reason to rest my own particular case. But since I speculated whether Mr Rich's mixed notice would deter theatregoers from paying a record \$100 to see the show, let me ask you: was the speculation realistic in the week following Mr Rich's review — a week in which every other newspaper, magazine and TV station in New York raved unanimously about *Nickleby*?

The next week, something virtually unprecedented happened. Mr Rich reviewed *Nickleby* again! This time he softened his criticism, though he still stuck to his view that it was over-long. That week — a week linked again to a massive media blitz declaring *Nickleby* to be the toast of Broadway — attendance improved to 85 per cent. And so to the next week and a third *NY Times* review. Kerr told his readers: "You will of course wish to go. You don't want to be out of the conversation for the next 10 years."

The following week, the House Full notices went up outside the theatre.

Elkan Allan's Television will appear next week.

### ART GALLERIES

A Large Exhibition of the Work of the French Impressionist painter, JACQUES-LOUIS DAVID, 1748-1825. 1841 ANTOINETTE GUILLEMET 1918. Now at the Aldwych Theatre, London WC2E 9JF. Tel: 01-477 1111. To accompany the exhibition, a study of the artist's work.

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## Theatre/Ned Chaillet Exploiting tribal customs

Another Country  
Greenwich

A public school is a different country to the vast majority of Britons, and Julian Mitchell's play exploits and exposes the tribal customs. From the beginning, however, it is clear that he intends to extract the meanings that lie beneath the title. *Another Country* could take its meaning from the past, where they do things differently, for he writes of a time when Stalin could still suggest idealism to a schoolboy. He could even be borrowing from Marlowe's reference to adultery in another country, where the wench is dead, for a schoolboy kills himself quite early on after being discovered in a homosexual embrace.

The title takes on additional connotations as the play develops, but Mr Mitchell's eye for character and ear for

dialogue is applied to story telling first and foremost. His scenes are refreshingly economical, and engaging in their progression. The interest of the moment is always captured to such an extent that the overall pattern of the play escapes attention, until finally he focuses all the passing tribulations of school behaviour: of bullying, homosexual attraction, sports and political manoeuvring, into its moulding influence on the life of a particular boy.

It is a rare, canny piece of play writing. A surface description of the events would make it seem an autobiographical recollection of a specific time of growing up. The sharply drawn individual figures would seem mere representatives of breeds of public school boys, but the representations of a militaristic, bullying, and grinding puritanical student of Marlowe, of a flamboyant homosexual and of a dutiful

heir to the family fortunes are independently alive.

While Mr Mitchell provides his boys with wit, and with pretentious adult phrases that get them through ministerial committee meetings and courts martial as they plan their careers in Parliament or the Foreign Office, he is building towards a larger debate on morality and political practice.

That boy is outside the rules and the real questions are raised within the rules, within the bending and breaking of rules and within the implications of submitting to rules or flaunting an objection from an adult perspective, grandly portrayed by David Williams, puts the debate into perspective, but it is finally the workings of the school system as a miniature England that make Mr Mitchell's point, dramatically and with a large measure of entertainment.

## Concerts/Paul Griffiths Eight minutes of verve

London Sinfonietta/  
Zollman

This season's BBC College Concerts are incorporating a miniature Boulez retrospective which begins last night with his *Messiaen* for seven cellos; four years old but not previously performed in this country. Admittedly the neglect cannot fairly be seen as excessively scandalous: the piece is, after all, only a "message-sketch", a brisk set of variations on the coded surname of Paul Sacher despatched to honour that

friend of composers over half a century.

Nevertheless, nothing by Boulez is less likely to appeal when he composes so little, and this eight-minute conundrum shows him tackling with verve a medium that might appear inimical to his musical personality. There is a certain nobility in the way the principal cellos have his music shadowed and refracted by his six companions and the piece is distinctly Boulezian in its strained harmony and brittle variations. It even has connections with an earlier work played at the end of the concert, *Ediz*, both as a lively study in homogeneous sonorities and as the scene of a

promised orchestral composition.

Within this context of an enigmatic and enigmatic Nicholson's *The Convergence* of the *Tuam* stood up powerfully on its own terms, being quite independent of the Hardy poem on which it was based and of the real event behind the poem, the sinking of the *Titanic*.

What exists here of Nicholson is much more substantial, a strong coherence of harmony and orchestral chording and a Tippett-like gift for ideas and encounters of a vivid human character. You can hear this work and the Boulez broadcast on Monday week.

## Concerts/Max Harrison Manifest restlessness

Jerome Rose  
Queen Elizabeth Hall

Jerome Rose began last night with Clementi's Sonata Op. 24 No. 2, the one whose opening motif was later put to rather different use by Mozart. His performance of the first movement was exactly to scale, and the instrument almost sounded like a forte piano. But the restlessness which appears to grow out of that initial motif's repetitions was fully manifest.

The Adante goes through familiar motions, yet Mr Rose showed its songlike impulse to be genuine — partly by using here a sustaining power which the instrument lacked in Clementi's time. The finale unites various sorts of rapid figurations, but their inventiveness goes some way to explain Beethoven's respect for this composer.

Mr Rose's performance of the Schubert Sonata D959 was a beautiful example of refined pianism, its clarity of detail arising as much from a deep consideration of the music as from a superb technique. It is always a stimulus to the imagination and to one's sense of history to hear

## Television Dennis Hackett Missing drama

*Last Summer's Child*, based on her story, *The Badness Within Him*, marked Susan Hill's debut in television drama on BBC2 last night and she was afforded every facility to make it memorable: a first-class cast director, Giles Foster, and the broody eye of cameraman Kenneth Macmillan to place us beautifully in Penzance. Only the drama was missing.

Col is aged around 12, in that now-hazy land between infancy and adolescence, at odds with his father, bored with himself and his Cornish holiday, resentful of his elder sister's absorption in her friend — a normal, unspeakable phase in fact when only mothers are acceptable. We saw him first smashing one of Dad's precious collections of eggs, Dad at this time not even being a physical presence, but sweltering away in London earning everyone's keep. Sister Jess is not unsympathetic but, rightly in my view, concludes that Col is not just difficult, he is impossible and takes off with friend in pursuit of the vicarage boys. Dad comes down early, rather ostentatiously rubbing

his upper tummy, and finds the fault he expected in Col, who has actually stopped moping for once and gone off with a friendly fisherman and his son, albeit without announcing this initiative. So Dad tells him off and gets an earful of Col's complex in return. Obviously cast in the role of the elder stag, unconsciously locking horns, he is upset by this and wanders about saying "I don't know" and generally registering

those frustrations with which fathers of boys will be familiar.

Next morning Col apologises, detaching somewhat from this filial gesture by confessing to the deliberate breaking of the egg. Father does not provoke and starts to communicate but off goes Col. I think even Dr Spock might have taken a running kick here, but disappointed Dad goes down to the beach with the family.

The one thing  
money can't buy  
costs 80p

Your  
Health

The new monthly magazine  
written by doctors. At your newsagents now

## Chess/Harry Golombek

## King in peril

An examination of nine different chess-playing machines reveals two basic deficiencies (or even defects) in their play. One is that they are over-materialist in their approach to the game.

Obsessed by this acquisitive spirit they love to make captures and will cling on to and defend their material to an end that is inevitably bitter. This renders them ideal opponents for players who specialize in sacrificing material for the attack. The machines readily accept sacrifices and themselves regard a sacrifice that is more than one move deep as anathema.

The second failing is bound up with the first and is really its natural supplement. Far from realizing how vulnerable a piece the King is, they allow it to be denuded of its natural protection in the shape of pawns, being well content if they gain material in some other part of the board away from the King. I suppose that in more than 50 per cent of the games I have played against them they have lost directly because they have allowed me to deprive their King of his pawn protection.

These defects apply to all the machines, even to the better ones, among which I class the Morphy machines produced by a firm called Applied Concepts Inc. My attention was first drawn to the Morphy Encore master chess computer in a curious and rather flattering way. In early July when Penguin Books launched no less than four chess books on an unsuspecting public, they asked me to give a small tenuous display at Reading in which anyone who won or drew a game with me would receive a copy of my *Encyclopedia of Chess*. I readily agreed since I was concerned with three out of the four books.

A firm that sold chess computers asked me if they could occupy one of the boards with the Morphy Encore machine and I found it quite a formidable opponent, both in the opening and in the early middle-game. However, as one might have expected, it faltered and lost rather badly in the ending.

Nevertheless, the Morphy Encore machine is one to be reckoned with and is only a little inferior to the Champion Sensory Chess Challenger I mentioned the other week.

Meanwhile I have received an interesting letter from Mr Hans Heinzel who has tried out a variation on all the computer chess machines he has been able to obtain and invariably won. It runs as follows (with the computer having White): 1. P-K4, R-K4; 2. N-KB3, B-B4; 3. N-P3, B-P4; 4. K-N5, Q-R5; 5. K-K3, Q-N4; 6. K-Q4, P-B4; 7. K-Q5, N-K2; 8. K-B4, Q-N4.

Now the computer is clearly losing and the Auto-response board on level continued 8. P-B3, P-Q4; 9. P-P3, Q-QP; 10. K-N5, B-Q2; 11. K-R5, P-B5; 12. K-N4, N-R3; 13. K-R4, Q-R4; 14. K-R3, Q-R4; 15. Q-R4, Q-Q4.

The machine's fifth move, K-K3, is clearly motivated by the desire to retain material to which I have already referred. By playing 5. K-N1 or 5. P-KN3, he could have won easily.

Another curious point about this line is that it is the same as one given by international master Julio Kaplan in a book called *How to get*

the most from your chess computer that was published by Pitmans earlier this year. In this excellent work Kaplan refers to the machine's "over-reliance on material considerations" and illustrates it by this line, albeit with a mistake on move 2 when he plays as Black B-c4 when he means B-c5. Note that we are using the algebraic notation here since in fact all chess computers work on this notation and I have transliterated it to the descriptive for the sake of easier understanding.

Mr Heinzel asked me to try the line out on another chess machine and, since it has relevance to my main theme, I played it as Black against all the eight levels of the Morphy Encore. In every case the machine played the losing move of 5.K-K3, with variations on moves 8 or 9 for White that also led to an early loss by the machine.

I have to confess that I obtained quite a lot of enjoyment in testing out the Morphy machine, even though, or perhaps because, it, like other machines, tends to make one feel like a combination of Alekhine and Capablanca, with Bobby Fischer and Anatoly Karpov thrown in for good measure. Morphy Encore costs £179 and is obtainable from Kramer & Co., 9 October Place, Holders Hill Road, London, NW4, 1EJ.

As an illustration of the sort of fun one can have with the machine I give a game I won against it when the Morphy Encore was put on level 3, a level on which it was supposed to have a U.S. Chess Federation rating of 1600. White H. G. Black Morphy Encore Ruy Lopez

1 P-K4 P-K4 4 B-R4 N-B3  
2 N-K3 N-B3 5 O-O N-P3  
3 B-N5 Q-R5 6 R-K1

The book move is 6.P-Q4, but I had resolved to try out the machine by adopting unbookish lines.

6 P-Q4  
A weak move, correct was 6...N-B4; and if then 7.N-P3 B-K2; with equality.

7 B-B4  
Not perhaps as strong as N-P3, but again I wanted to get Black out of normal lines.

8 B-B4  
Vigorous and acquisitive; safer was 7...B-K2.

8 P-Q4 B-Q4  
A waste of time that enables White to play a gambit that eventually leads to that denuding of the King I have described at the beginning of this article.

9 N-B3 N-B1 11 R-P4 ch K-K3  
10 P-N4 B-P3

After 11... K-B1; 12. B-R3 ch, gives White a winning attack. But the text-move allows White to sacrifice a Rook for a crushing Kingside attack.

12 P-P3 B-N4 13 P-B4 P-Q4  
If 13... O-O; 14. B-N3, P-R3; 15. P-K2, Q-Q3; 16. Q-N3 ch, K-R1; 17. R-K6 winning the Queen.

14 P-P3 ch K-P3 15 N-N5 ch K-N4  
Other King moves are no better, eg 15... K-B1; 16. Q-B3 ch, Q-B3; 17. R-KB5, or 15... K-N5; 16. B-B2 ch, K-R3; 17. N-B7 ch, K-N4.

16 Q-B3 ch O-O4 17 O-B7 mate.  
17 Q-B3 ch K-B1

## Diary Quiz

1. Which country started a new innings on a rainy cricket pitch?
2. What's thought to be a good line to invest in?
3. Who made a £17m flutter?
4. What prompted an unholy war?
5. Grosser profits?
6. Who is following in Big Daddy's footsteps?
7. Is there a doctor on the ward?
8. Oh Lucky Jim!
9. What took a long time coming out?
10. Who started four months' hard travelling on Thursday?
11. Prudent Pussy?
12. Who announced he was on his last lap?
13. OK on 27 and 934?
14. First and last sale?
15. Who threatened a demonstration that would go with a bang?



So many good entries made choosing this week's winner a hard task. I liked "That'll do nicely, sir" from several readers. Three runners-up: "Take the waiting out of waiting" from Mr K. Poole of Stevenage; "Counter-espionage" from Mr Conway of Blackburn; and "Bank charges shoot up" from Roger Virena of York. The winner is A. C. D. Butler of Lincolnshire with "Excuse me — can you supply me with a cartridge to fill this gun?"



Worker participation in a Japanese car factory is the subject of this week's picture. A bottle of Veuve Clicquot to the reader who sends in the wittiest caption. Entries on a postcard, please, to Peter Watson, Diary Quiz, The Times, PO Box 7, 200 Gray's Inn Road, London WC1X 8EZ. To arrive not later than first post on Thursday.

## Bridge/Jeremy Flint

## Priorities first

"First things first," we were told when we were young. A singularly obstinate child, it was not until much later that I realized the advice was sensible and practical. At the bridge table, the failure to observe a proper sense of priority is the frequent cause of unnecessary defeat. Here is a simple example.

Rubber bridge. Game all. Dealer South.

West North East South  
♠ 10 7 4 10 9 8  
♥ 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2  
♦ 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3  
♣ A 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3

West North East South  
♠ 10 7 4 10 9 8  
♥ 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2  
♦ 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3  
♣ A 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3

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West North East South  
♠ 10 7 4 10 9 8  
♥ 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2  
♦ 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3  
♣ A 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3

To determine the correct play of the trump suit, declarer's first move should be to discover whether he has to lose a heart. When the heart finesse succeeds, declarer can concentrate on minimizing his chances of losing more than one spade. If this suit combination is taken in isolation, the ♠A is a standard safety play. Obviously if the heart finesse loses, the finesse of the ♠Q is the only way to play the suit to lose no tricks.

The declarer on the next hand had an exact knowledge of the odds, but little idea how to apply them.

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## Travel: Edited by Shona Crawford Poole

New equipment/Michael Howe

## Don't get bogged down in technology

These days of course you do not hurry down slippery slopes with wooden planks strapped to furry boots. Your footwear is more likely to be of thermo-plastic attached to your skis by multi-directional toe units and quick release heel bindings with integrated retractable brakes.

The skis will have been designed in a laboratory with the help of a computer, and will probably be a combination of light alloy, steel, fibreglass, graphite and acrylic foam.

Ski technology has come a long way since those first Norwegians strapped on what were wooden planks. The choice in new equipment is bewildering, the technical terms, for the beginner, innumerable, and a new fashion in technique of technology can overtake you in the course of a single skiing season.

So how do you know what to buy? Like most things it is a matter of balancing needs against budget (although the most expensive will almost certainly not suit you unless you are an expert).

If you do not intend to keep ahead of the ins and outs of ski technology, you are in the hands of a sales assistant who it is certainly easier to evaluate than the equipment itself. So go to as many shops

as you can and discuss your needs. The two biggest retail chains only employ experienced skiers. Most have completed technical courses in the products they sell, and Alpine Sports say that from this season they are also insisting on university graduates.

You are certain to be asked about your skiing standard. Don't be tempted to exaggerate, and unless advised to do so, do not buy beyond your standard to save money later.

Details of what to look for are below, but first a word about prices. They are definitely down this season — some more than 30 per cent, which poses the question: were we being ripped off last year?

The explanation from the main retailers is that they have narrowed their margins and persuaded their European suppliers — some of whom are facing severe competition — to do the same. Alpine Sports say they have dropped one manufacturer who would not come to the party.

Pindisports are so certain that their prices are comparable to those at the resorts that they are offering to credit you part of the difference if you buy skis, bindings or boots from them before the end of December and then find them

more than 10 per cent cheaper on general sale in a resort.

What should you look for in equipment?

It may be stating the obvious to say that your bindings are the most important. If they do not release when they should you can break a leg or worse. So pay more for them. All the main manufacturers make good ranges for all standards, up to about £70 at the top for Salomon, Tyrolia, Gern and Look. But you do not need the top of the range unless you are a heavyweight or particularly aggressive. Salomon 626 or Standard 727s have an especially good reputation. But remember bindings only as good as their adjustment. Make sure this is done properly.

Boots come next. Above all do not buy them too big; try them on with thick socks. Salomon, whose new boots took the slopes by storm last year, have brought out two cheaper models for intermediates at about £55. Sidas footbed insoles, shaped to your own foot, are worth considering with any boot.

Skis are complicated and difficult to choose. Be guided by the shop staff. Generally if you are taller, heavier and ski faster, buy a longer ski. If a beginner get one which is

designed for easier turning at low speeds.

The fashion for very short skis seems to have been short-lived. They were easier to learn on but few European ski schools took to them wholeheartedly. However, Pindisports are continuing with their American Scorpions, only 110 cms long, from £89.

Compact or mid-length skis, which reach to about head height, or a little lower, are now considered the best for beginners. Alpine Sports sell the Spindling ST with Salomon 626 bindings for an all-in £74.40. While Pindisports offer, among others, Dynamic CD3s with the same binding for £79. Add Salomon SX60 boots and you are virtually equipped for under £150.

If you consider yourself an expert, the ski is the limit. The latest batch of models Free seem to have hit upon the best all-round combination with the Free 1200 and 1500.

And your other needs — put warmth before fashion, although it is not necessary to sacrifice the latter. Mittens are warmer than gloves because there is less surface area around the fingers. If you buy glasses rather than goggles, make sure they don't fall off when you touch your toes.

## Northern slopes/Richard Owen

## Feeling warm in Norway

For a country which claims to have invented skiing, Norway has not really had its fair share of winter sports visitors in recent years. Things are now looking up, however, and the skiers are coming back. The Norwegians themselves never went away, and neither for that matter did the Swedes, who pour across the border in well-organized droves as soon as the season begins. But the less fortunate British — who a decade or so ago were among Norway's most frequent guests — have until now been put off by the combination of a faltering British economy and an increasingly unfavourable exchange rate against the kronor.

Norway is still expensive — beer, for example, works out at about £1 a bottle — but not any harder on the pocket than many a skiing holiday in France or Switzerland. And the attractions are considerable. First among them are Norway's wide and often under-populated slopes (despite those Swedes), with comparatively short and fast-moving queues for lifts. The

relief at not having to jostle for space with a thousand others for hours on end provides a warm feeling in the crisp (and sometimes very cold) mountain air. So does the fact that the Norwegians are actually glad to see you, and the instructors are not only friendly and patient but speak immaculate audible English.

Norway does not boast any vast international resorts, so those in search of jet set glamour will be disappointed. What Norway does have is a number of modest well-run skiing centres, with both cross-country facilities and a variety of runs. They range from Telemark in the South (slalom is a Telemark word, and is used as a general term for downhill skiing) to chilly expanses of Finnmark in the north. The most popular resorts though are in the fjord country of West Norway and Buskerud, with the Bergen railway providing spectacular access to Voss and Gello, by way of a comfortable train ride through the mountains, with fjords and waterfalls on either side.

Gello (pronounced Yello) is probably the better known resort, and the best bet for Britons rediscovering Norway. It has hundreds of kilometres of well-marked cross-country trails, as well as 20 slopes for downhill skiing, served by three chair lifts (one — rather inconveniently — on the other side of the valley) and eight drag. Since the lifts are all owned by different firms — Gello, it seems, just grows — there is some lack of coordination, and it can be irritating to hike from the top of one lift to the next run. But the local powers that be have a firm grip on planning and have already instituted a combined lift pass.

The Gello Hotel, run by Per Haaland, offers a suitably Scandinavian atmosphere after a hard day's (or morning's) skiing, complete with log fire and a cuisine which includes a delicious Norwegian traditional buffet. At a house Mr Haaland's young son Paul Marius will show you how to wax and file your skis properly, and if you pay attention he might even go on to demonstrate how he be-

came the local "slalom" champion by emulating Ingemar Stenmark. Anyone looking for a quiet skiing holiday with a family flavour could do worse than look north, especially if the idea of combining cross country with downhill racing seems attractive. Do bear in mind though that in January the light falls early — about 4.00 pm — although some slopes are flooded.

How to get there: The Norwegian State Railways, 21-24 Cockspur St, London SW1, tel 01-930 6666, offer package holidays to Gello, Voss, Gjøvik, Lillehammer, Telemark, Valdres and Oslo using SAS and BA, from London and Aberdeen/Glasgow, to either Oslo or Bergen, then by bus or train. Prices in Gello, half board, 14 nights £363 in January, £446 high season. Inghams, 329, Funnay Bridge Road, SW15, tel 01-788-6145 (reservations), offer Gello and Voss only, from London, Scotland and provincial airports, using Dan-Air, with buses and trains less well organized. Prices at Gello: full board, 14 nights from £345 low season to £432 high.

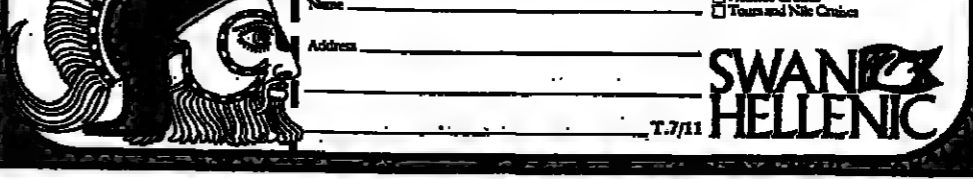
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# Countdown to Christmas: 2

## Christmas... and me

Second in the series:  
Philipa Toomey

Like many another, I contemplated on my TV the sight of one of our best actors as Othello got up as something off a jam jar and turned to watch Charlton Heston in *The War Lord*. By serendipitous chance, in search of references to this film in the diaries Mr Heston kept from 1956 to 1976, I stumbled across a really astonishing piece of information: Charlton Heston does his Christmas shopping on Christmas Eve.

In this country anyone imagining they can buy anything at all on Christmas Eve has a nasty shock coming. Christmas is OVER. All shop windows are plastered with notices announcing that tremendous sales ("last chance to buy...") are about to begin the minute they can get the doors open after a boring and tiresome interval in trading. Even the pink porcelain pig, nourishing eight little loved ones, and labelled "ideal gift" in my local High Street last Saturday, will have gone—either to another pig, or to someone driven completely mad in the Christmas rush.

Can Mr Heston be the only truly sensible man in the world? How can it be Christmas when we have only just had Bonfire Night?

There are, said T. S. Eliot, a multitude of attitudes towards Christmas.

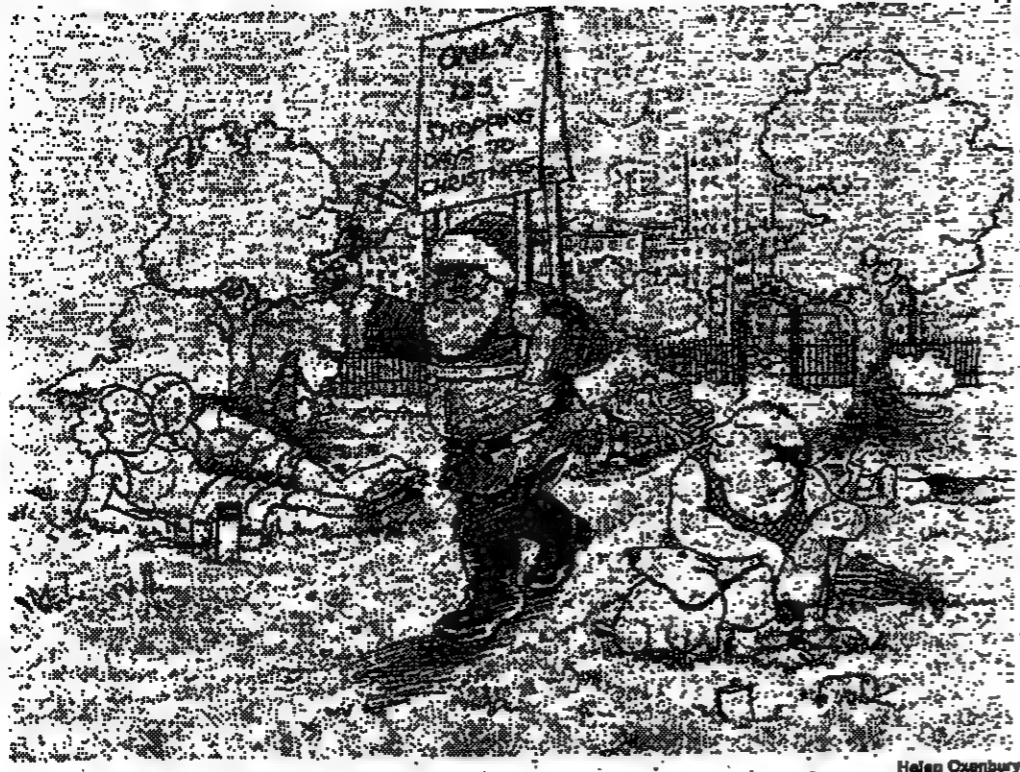
Some of which we may disregard: The social, the torpid, the parentally commercial. The rowdy (the pubs being open till midnight).

And the childish—which is not that of the child. Can we disregard what has happened to Christmas? Perhaps it's something to do with the instant availability of strawberries in January, stilling in August. Not of course, that I regret the disappearance of the childlike from my life, but here we are, hardly into the season of mists and mellow fruitfulness, being exhorted to think about Christmas.

When we get to it there will be 10 days of that austere goodwill, sitting around watching *Gone With The Wind*, Morecambe and Wise and the Muppets—all of them made sometime last July, or thereabouts.

A real Christmas now—what would that be? The accepted view is that Christmas is, to quote Mr Eliot again, for the child—

For whom the candle is a star, and the gilded angel Spreading its wings at the tree Is not only a decoration, but an angel.



Helen Chamberlain

If you are not a child, a rougher time is expected. When I went to live in the United States I was surprised to find how much New Yorkers seemed to enjoy Christmas—none of the expressions, appalling lists, moans about Christmas cards, the dread of having relations to stay, the general British determination not to have a good time if they can possibly help it.

The Post Office gives earlier and earlier dates by which it can guarantee presents and cards arriving. If you have friends and family in Outer Mongolia, it's already too late—post should have gone before the August Bank Holiday. Like those amazing cricketers, the shops push the dates of Christmas back so that they can get a long and dangerous run up to the sales.

Even what the Post Laureate describes as "the sweet and silly Christmas things, both sales and inexpensive scenes, and hideous ties so kindly meant" have gone up equally hideously in price since last year.

The great thing in America is that Christmas lasts for one day only—no Boxing Day, tucked on to a weekend, if Christmas falls awkwardly for the holiday. One you go on Christmas Eve, laden with parcels and presents, and back you come the next evening, having had a lovely day, and just enough of family life to make one glad to have seen them all. Next day, life continues. Not content with shopping on

Christmas Eve, Charlton Heston has a Christmas tree sent down to him in Los Angeles from the forest in his home state of Michigan—on one notable occasion going out into the snowy woods with his little son and hacking the thing down himself.

If I had my way, preparations for Christmas would start as they did when I was still at school, when I got home about December 17. Up until that moment, if necessary by law—can you imagine the Christmas (Prevention) Bill going through both houses of Parliament?—not so much as a sprig of holly or a fat man in a red costume with a beard would be seen. Gift wrappings and ribbons would be kept in the stock room. All reindeer would be shot on sight. Draconian laws would be passed concerning the correct amount of money involved in buying a present. In my New York office we all drew each other's names out of a hat and bought that person a suitable present (nothing to exceed \$5). The pursuit of happiness, as in the American Constitution, would be compulsory.

On the appointed date, the Christmas spirit would appear—it would stop raining, the shops would be full of exactly the right presents for everyone, roast chestnuts would scent the frosty air, Christmas trees and holly would be piled in heaps, Christmas carols would ring out, right up to the very last minute, not only for Mr Heston, but for all of us. From John Benjamin again.

And it is true? And is it true This most tremendous tale Seen in a stained glass window, hue A Baby in an ox's stall?

Those of us who believe have reason to rejoice. To church, then, on Christmas morning, through the snow which has fallen carefully and to about half a decorative inch during the night, with the garden positively infested with robins, and "The First Noel" and "Hark, the herald angels" back to presents under the tree and the Queen live—though nowadays, she isn't actually there—and on to the traditional Christmas feast, with all the bits, crackers and paper hats.

Next day, back to work "Best Christmas I've had in years." It sounds a little mean. After all, we do need our holidays. How about a few more scattered through the year, instead? The Americans have Thanksgiving, on the last Thursday in November—why don't we have one too? And something for Filthy February—an early Beltane, with bonfires, fireworks and muffled ale? A genuine May Day on May 1? Let's spread the good-will throughout the year—we aren't going to get all that many Royal Weddings.

There is no such thing as an ideal world, nor an ideal Christmas. The Christmas tree from Michigan didn't arrive one year, causing woe in the Heston household, and one year the steam room caught fire. But we can try. In an ideal world, after all, it would have been Mr Heston playing Othello.

## What we want is...

More Times staff seek out their kind of presents: this week—records, home computers, bath salts (etc), books and wine

### ... Bartok

As far as recordings of 20th-century music are concerned, this has been Bartok's year. The centenary of his birth was the predictable excuse, but the scale and scope of new releases surpassed any expectation, with excellent recordings of virtually his entire output.

Two issues stand out for me from the mass. First must be the Tokyo Quartet's boxed set of the six string quartets, Bartok's central works, here performed with virtuosity that astonishes without being self-congratulatory. Pierre Boulez's assemblage of the three string quartets is just as brilliantly performed, with all the surface clarity and perturbed feeling that Bartok brought to the theatre.

Other masters of the first half of the century have not been so well served. We must wait till next year for centenary tributes to Stravinsky, though the London Sinfonietta have anticipated the event with a lively performance of his *Agon*, curiously but not ineptly coupled with the gorgeous chamber concerto of Berg. Meanwhile lovers of Schoenberg can be well satisfied with a keenly felt and superbly well-played account of his *Verklärte Nacht*, from Anja Silja and the Vienna Philharmonic under Christoph von Dohnanyi.

Recommendable recordings of music by living composers have sadly been few enough to select themselves. A suite of "scenes and interludes" from Ligeti's opera *Le grand macabre* should whet the appetite for next year's production of the work at the Coliseum. Elgar Howard marks the Danish forces with a sure sense of the music's bizarre mix of parody and pornography.

Finally, Peter Maxwell Davies' *Autumn stellae*, recorded by the Fires of London, is simply one of the rare masterpieces of our time.

■ Bartok String quartets. DG 2740 235 (three records), £10-£14.

■ Bartok Stage works. CBS 78338 (three records), £11-£15.

■ Stravinsky: *Agon*, Berg: Chamber concerto. Argo ZRG 937, £4-£5.50.

■ Schoenberg: *Erwartung*. Strongs opus 8, Decca SXDL 7509, £4-£5.50.

■ Ligeti: *Le grand macabre*. Unicorn-Kanchana KP 6002, £5.35.

Paul Griffiths

David's *Autumn stellae*, recorded by the Fires of London, is simply one of the rare masterpieces of our time.

Of course, you do not get a vast amount of computer power for that price. For the technically minded, the ZX81 has a 1K-byte RAM (Random Access Memory). That means it can store about 1,000 characters of text—enough to learn computing at home.

However, your children will probably soon feel cramped by the relative smallness of the 1K memory particularly if they can play with a more powerful machine at school. So be prepared to be pestered by birthday time with requests to upgrade the ZX81 with a "16K-byte RAM pack" (£49.95) which plugs into the back of the computer and increases its capacity 16-fold.

Any 625-line television set

will do as a display screen for the ZX81; you just plug the lead provided into the socket that normally takes your TV aerial. But you may want to splash out another £49.95 to learn the dreaded ALGOL and FORTRAN but non-technical parents always find that their children pick it

up more quickly than they. Be prepared for humiliation and avoid the home computer altogether if you cannot stand being taught by the younger generation. Fortunately, Sinclair includes an excellent ZX81 BASIC programming manual with every computer. W. H. Smith is selling the ZX81 in its larger branches. Or it can be ordered by mail from Sinclair Research Ltd, Freeport 7, Cambridge CB2 1XY.

If you can afford to buy a microcomputer that does a little more than the ZX81, there is another excellent British product available, the Atom made by Acorn (a Cambridge-based firm like Sinclair). One of its advantages is that it has been selected by the BBC for their teach-yourself-computing broadcasts and it is a very popular choice in schools.

The Atom is available from specialist computer shops in most large cities, including Esch Computing in Glasgow, NSC Computer Shop in Manchester and Microage in North London, or by mail from Acorn Computers Ltd, Market Hill, Cambridge CB2 174. The basic version costs £174.50.

Clive Cookson

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Clive Cookson

## ... bubbles

As a child I loathed being given bath salts. I used to wonder if adults had been born grown up. But tastes change. What luxury to wallow in a steaming, sultry-smelling, sticky, sudsy bath. Bliss. A good book, a glass of champagne and bath night is Utopia.

I like bath goodies for different moods, days and occasions. I adore Mary Chess's bath oils as a special treat. The whole house smells delicious for days, and I love snuggling under the sheets catching wafts of an exotic scent. Mary Chess created her first floral scent "White Lilac" in the early 1930s, and has gone from scent to scent every since.

Taylor of London have an excellent range of bath products. Aromatic sachets of Foaming Bath Seeds make lovely additions to presents or in place of a card. They travel well too—the well-designed envelope has a non-spill inner lining. John Taylor, a chemist combined his pharmaceutical knowledge with his love of flowers and for over a hundred years the standard has never varied.

Who could forget dear, faithful Floris? Their Moisturising Bath Oil is superbly packaged; the bottle is styled on a 70 year old Floris original—a charming, old-worldy gift.

Crabtree & Evelyn's package their toiletries so beautifully, I am reluctant to discard them. Foaming Bath Gel in Sandalwood is my favourite—it's delicate fragrance and profuse

bubbles stimulate me. Products with names good enough to eat. They should be sold with a warning to children.

In the pink (as opposed to the red) slither into a Strawberry Shake Oil bath; it's made by The Body Shop which bases its products on natural ingredients and is particularly interested in ecology and preservation of animals.

Moisturising Foam Bath is sold by Marks & Spencer in chunky, unbreakable bottles. I particularly enjoy frothing around, immersed in Peach Sweet yet not sickly. Enough to make you dribble if not foam! Terrific value.

■ Bath oils by Mary Chess cost from £2.80 to £17.25 at 7 Shop Market, Mayfair, W1Y 7HR. See for price list and carriage.

■ Foaming Bath Seeds cost 45p (12p p & p) from Taylor of London, 86 Sloane Street, SW1X 8JH. See for order form.

■ Moisturising Bath Oil by Floris of 89 Jermyn Street, SW1Y 8JH, £5.25 (£1.35 carriage). Free price list.

■ Crabtree & Evelyn's Foaming Bath Gel costs £2.85 from Liberty's, Schofield's, Leeds; and their shop in Kensington Church Street, W8.

■ Christmas pack of Strawberry Body Shampoo and Oil costs £3.95 including postage. From The Body Shop at 1 Crane Street, Chichester, West Sussex, PO19 1LH. Free price list.

■ Moisturising Foam Bath from Marks & Spencer costs £1.10.

Doreen Tayler

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## Countdown to Christmas: 2

### ... a cellar

A supply of good wine is definitely a useful and acceptable gift. If I had children, I would be tempted by the Trust scheme of Justerini & Brooks (61 St James's Street, SW1), and George Street, Edinburgh, whereby a covenant with tax rebates in succeeding years of not less than £500 placed to the credit of the fortunate infant between January and March will secure a cellar of wines in the "fine" category.

get tasting notes on each wine, a free cellar book (plus a copy of my own *Wines of Bordeaux*). Both Laytons and Justerini & Brooks will keep the wines for customers at the current annual rate of £2.50 per case, plus VAT. Laytons' offer closes on November 30. Both these schemes would soothe problems of the future as far as everyone is concerned.

More meekly, but no less enjoyable, Marks & Spencer's gift vouchers, available in £1 or £5, can be used in any store selling Marks & Spencer merchandise and, therefore, may be exchanged for the excellent wines stocked by many branches.

A recent addition to the M & S range is an Entre-Deux-Mers white wine, Chateau la Tuilerie 1980, deliciously fresh and crisp, trimly defined and giving the lie to those who may have supposed that this region only produces mild plums. This costs £2.25 and is available in major branches of M & S.

The agreeable 1977 Chateau Maucellou, from Moulis, is another distinguished addition

available at selected branches: it is endowed with the lightness and elegance of its parish and is definitely in the dinner-party category, although it might be somewhat overwhelmed by turkey. The 1971 Marques del Romeral, a Rioja, has all the plush, aromatic, waiting bouquet and substantial flavour suited to that bird. The Maucellou costs £3.99, the Rioja £2.99, from major branches.

If you want to give the bottles for a party, M & S have a generally popular sparkling wine, their Blanc de Blancs (£2.45). This is full enough to appeal to those who don't care for anything bone-dry, neatly fruity and clean as regards finish to please those with more worldly preferences; it would also make an excellent base for any cocktail or mixed drink, such as the bubbly and fresh orange juice so acceptable on the morning of Boxing Day.

For a *couleur de rose* party — perhaps an anniversary — try the Rose Spumante: remarkable value at £2.15.

Pamela Vandyke Price

## Victoria wants ...

Every Saturday, a chip off a Times block.

The editor's brief was, well, brief. Find out what your daughter wants for Christmas and tell me what she is going to get.

Victoria's reply was equally brief, uncompromising. "I would like to go to Portugal until the New Year. Not too festive, I thought. Never a child to be short of a quick reply, and still remembering golden days in baking sunshine around a swimming pool, she harboured hopes of a quick return trip.

When disabused of this idea (the very ideal), she became silent, unusually so. She later recovered her poise, sighed and said: "May I have ...", and then the requests came out in a torrent. "Hey, stop for a moment", I said, "why not come with me to the toyshop in Blackheath Village and see what they have?" With a roll of her eyes heavenwards she said: "I have been to the shop in the village." So we went, and Victoria, faced with a shop stuffed with an infinite variety of goodies, became monosyllabic. Most unusual.

While she wandered, bemused, through this avalanche of potential gifts I pondered on a sea of silence. After half-an-hour of silent browsing she returned to her normal chatter. "Kewington, the board game, is what I would like", she pronounced. (Good idea to have "the game of the year" — I shall be able to play with it too.)

Then quickly she launched into a variety of wants. A large Galt magnet set, a pair of slippers, a piece of steel (sufficient to satisfy her craving for electro-physics). A hand-operated sewing machine was chosen since all her doll's clothes were in tatters from too much removal. "I shall be able to repair them." Next came the Hungarian "Snake" made by the inventor of the Rubik Cube. The article can be bent into a number of surprising shapes, thus satisfying one into bargain. A sophisticated chess set with a beautifully engraved wooden board was next with the addi-



tional request for a travelling set "for when we next go to Portugal". This last said angelically, in addition she "quite fancied" a Swedish-made 10-roomed manor house, wired for lighting and fully decorated.

Hastening through the shop she asked for a decent set of paint brushes; in a number of sizes, a Pelham puppet (about two feet high with awful expressions) on a yoyo, a yo-yo, and much more.

Finally she hit upon a Japanese video game which had "baby" evacuees being dropped from a burning building. The idea is to catch the bundles before they fall into pavement. Catch the baby and you score a point, miss and you have an angel. Three angels and you start again. A variation is "moles" being clobbered with a spade. Another urge satisfied?

Across the road is the toyshop's twin outlet for clothing. Victoria immediately liked the Country Bumpkins pale blue check dress with darker blue reverses. And a pair of cream wool over-the-socks — the latest fashion — was assured. Lastly, she asked for a quartz wrist-

watch by Pulsar. She scorned the Lucy Timex: "too childish".

On the way home we passed a travel agency. "Why not go in there and book for Christmas?" It would have been so simple, but not nearly so much fun.

Up to £2, Cream wool over-the-socks — 89p. Galt assorted paint brushes, £1.99. Galt magnet set, £2.89. Up to £10, Pelham hand-operated sewing machine, £8.50. Kewington: the latest board game for two to six people, £4.95. Hungarian "Snake", £8.99. Gheeser copies available, £5.50. Smaller versions, £3.99. Up to £50, Chess set, £28. Travelling set, £19.50. Japanese computer video/watch game, £19.95 to £21.95. Pelham puppets, £32 to £40 plus. Lundby Swedish-made, doll's house, £45.95. Country Bumpkins blue dress, £22. Pulsar quartz wrist watch, £28. Lucy Timex, £10.95. All the above articles were seen at Ragdoll's, Tranquil Vale, Blackheath, SE3. Also available at major London stores. Pulsar watch and Lucy Timex from Harvey & Thompson, Blackheath Village, also available at other jewellers.

Anthony Jones

## 48 to go ...

Diana Patt counts down the hectic days

This is the time to get into the shops before everyone else has chosen the best offer. If, like me, you hate shopping, plan your Christmas giving with a theme. Give everyone woollen sweaters, or nightdresses and nightshirts, or boxes. Boxes

come in all materials, from ivory or lacquer, through rosewood to tiny ceramic or china boxes for pills or snuff.

If you stick to a theme, you can make your choice in one or two shops and avoid dashing in an out of dozens, or queuing at myriads of counters. With a little luck — and the shop Blackheath's establishment at the mad, box-buying customer — you should also get them gift-wrapped.

I would give more presents if I did not have to parcel them up, so I was interested in the delicate, paper-covered eggs, complete with strings for hanging on the Christmas tree which open into halves to hold a small present. This way you can hang presents on the tree and avoid the chore of packing. (Price 98p, from Villa Fern, Blackheath, SE3). Villa Fern also sells Christmas boots complete with white fur, for holding trinkets, and French country pate comes in painted, Victorian-style containers.

It's time to cook the cake, if you are to be inclined, or you buy one, home-made for you, from Joad O'Donnell, in Canterbury (telephone 0227 72254).

Surface mail should go off today to B&PO 2, 6 and 9 and on November 9 to Afghanistan, Ascension, Cyprus, Gibraltar, Greece, Malta, St Helena, South Africa and Zimbabwe.

Next week in Countdown: Philippa Toomey on face books; what Jamie, Philip Howard's son, asked his father for; Pamela Vandyke Price on eschewing brandy wamers; and Robin Young on meals out.

three winning entries, regardless of its price range.

**Richard Sachs**

Rules of entry

1. Any card submitted must have been sold this year on behalf of a nationally registered charity.
2. The price paid, date and place of purchase must be stated by the person submitting the entry.
3. Each entry must be accompanied by a sheet of paper explaining, in not more than 40 words, the reasons why you consider the card to have outstanding artistic merit.
4. No reader may submit more than one card in any one price range.
5. Two copies of the card must accompany each entry.
6. No employees of Times Newspapers Ltd or their families may enter the competition.
7. The judges' decision is final. No correspondence will be entered into.
8. Entries should be sent, clearly stating entrant's name and address, in addition to the details set out in the Rules, to The Times (Dept CCC), 12 Colley St, London WC9N 8YT.

## Christmas card competition

First entries in our competition to find this year's most compelling charity card have started to roll in. Here is one of them — a cardlet and white 11cm x 15cm card by Helen Chown for BLISS, a charity donating hospital equipment to save the lives of babies born at risk. Purchase price is 70p each (90p for a packet of 10), including p & p from BLISS, 159 Woodlands Avenue, Eastcote, Middx).

If you wish to enter, send us the Christmas card, on sale this year in aid of a nationally registered charity, which you believe has greater artistic merit than any other you have seen being sold during 1981 in the same price range.

The Times will present a cash prize of £100 to each of the three readers who submit the card which, in the judges' opinion, has the greatest artistic merit in the following price ranges: below 15p, 15p-25p and over 25p. You must also send us convincing reasons for your choice.

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## Take one large store, a dozen top writers...

During November Harrods are introducing favourite cookbooks to their fans in person. Arabella Boxer, Mary Berry, Pamela Harlech et al will be in the Kitchen Furniture Department on various days to sign copies of their books and receive compliments or brickbats from their fans and will be demonstrating their receipts too.

Beryl Downing will be there on November 25 from 1-2.30pm and also to sign her *Thirty Minute Cookery* book (Penguin, £1.50). She was too modest to mention this herself so it is up to me—having kept her seat warm these last few weeks—to let you know. Other personal appearances will be announced in the store on notice boards. You can also telephone Harrods' press office to find out when your own heroine will be there.

□ "The otter is an up-market animal. And waterproof too...." Not a conservationist speaking but the man introducing Florex 21 carpets to the waiting world. The otter is their symbol and their printed nylon carpet is indeed waterproof. A sheet of strong glass fibre is set between two sheets of pvc, one adhesive backed. Into this sheet 68 million (that's right) tiny nylon fibres per square metre are bonded electrostatically, and patterns are then printed on top. The first patterns

on other are a bit limited but we are promised more. The carpet is tough, and, since the fibres absorb nothing, easy to keep clean. Florex even offer a Punishment Kit, a small bit of carpet and a sachet of tomato sauce so that potential customers can try it out. The carpet costs £9-£10 a square yard from branches of the Army & Navy or Alders, also from Schofield, Leeds, and Cavendish House, Cheltenham. The Punishment Kit and leaflets will be sent by Mrs Rigg, Florex Ltd, PO Box 5, Ripley, Derbyshire (0773 44121). The turkey farmers were in fine feather at the Savoy last week and full of information about their ability to load every Christmas table in Britain despite the French, who would have us believe we need cross Channel birds.

There's nothing you can't do with turkey meat and everyone is doing it, including Bernard Matthews of the bo'illull bird fame. He started with a second hand incubator and a dozen eggs and is now selling two million turkey and pork sausages a week. Then there are the modest people like the Burtons who sell from their farm shop at splendidly reasonable prices. If you are passing near Valley Farm, Meltham, Royston, Hertfordshire (Royston 60445) do see what's for cooking.

## Making light of decoration



Roses by any other name may be made of plaster or, by modern methods, rigid polystyrene. These are the ceiling roses whipped out of Victorian houses in the past 150 years and now being re-installed by the next generation who want a little decoration.

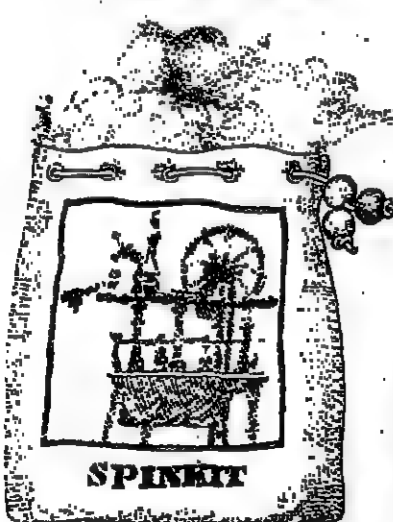
The bonus of the modern method is that roses, cornices and corbels pack and travel well, are light to stick up and have all the looks of the originals. Gerald and Ann Hodgson, who produce them, point out that Georgian and Victorian plaster were poor man's carved wood. They offer versions of six designs, this is 'Antonia', 24 inches in diameter, at £22.65 through shops or, including postage, direct from Copley Crafts, Thorney Grange, Spennithorne, Leyburn, N. Yorks (0969 23410). Send a stamped sae for retailers' names and illustrated leaflet.

## Sticky times

Among remembered pleasures of childhood are autumn afternoons spent making Christmas presents and decorations. A large pot of flour-and-water paste, snub-nosed scissors, coloured paper, paints and even back copies of *The Times* were our raw materials for paper chains. There were potato stamps carved out in angel and star shapes. They got squishy

after many pressings on to Christmas cards. This year's children will have as much fun if parents send for Philip and Tacey's catalogue of Christmas Craftwork, post free from them at North Way, Andover, Hants (0264 61171) to order stamps, tinsels, inks, cards, crayons. Phone orders happily accepted too.

On the distaff side for the spinning of elemental fleece, Kay Lea has invented a remarkable little wooden spindle. Her own leaflet best explains exactly how to use it and there simply isn't room for twirl-by-twirl instructions here. Her Spinkit comes in a little bag, with spindle, instructions and enough Jacob's sheep fleece to make a pair of mittens.

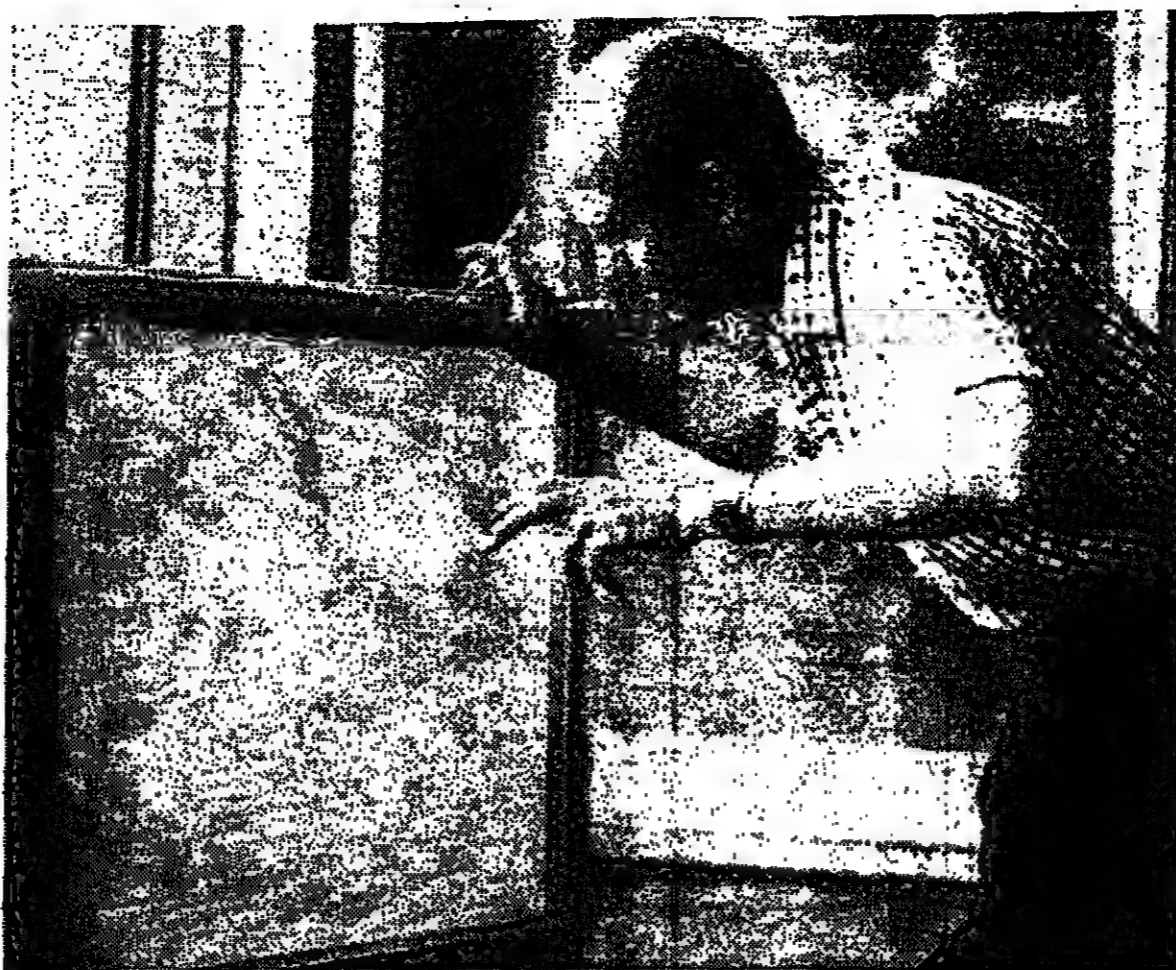


Send £3.95, plus 90p p & p, to Libra, Celandine Place, 13 Meer Street, Stratford-upon-Avon, Warwickshire, where the kit can be bought direct. Or make your way to Covent Garden Market so Kay herself can seduce you with the charms of this classic craft. She's among woolly knits on Wednesdays at stall 40 and at stall 19 on Thursdays.

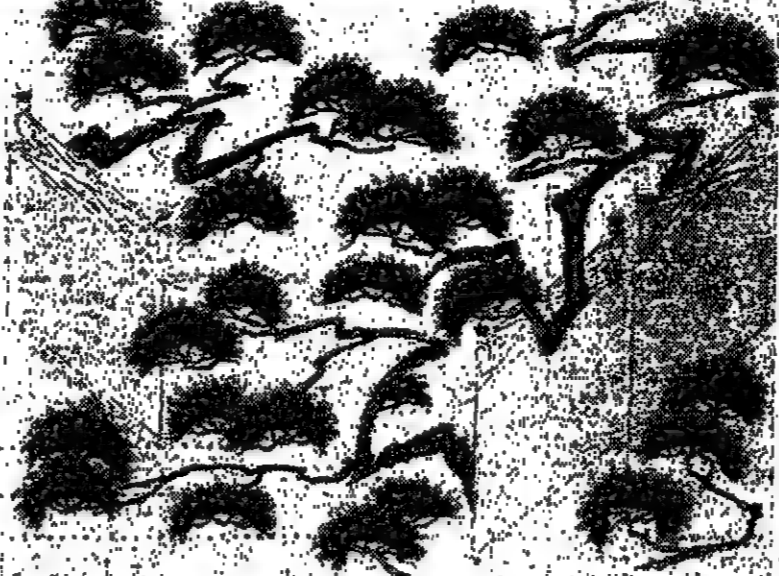
## Shoparound

by Diana Pollock

Beryl Downing is away



Michael Szell, working on his own hand-painted silk-screens, can adjust colour and line to give delicacy and infinite variety to his furnishing materials. His present collection, inspired by the traditional art of Japan, includes this design based on the famous gates and garden screens of the Edo period. Called Golden Gate, it features stylised Bonsai trees whose intricate shapes are a special art. As well as his own showrooms in Sloane Avenue, two other shops carry his designs: Liberty and Oscar Woolens of 421 Finchley Road, NW3.



## When big and small are beautiful

Michael Szell's real success is in selling his lovely furnishing fabrics to palaces and to the taxi driver's wife. "That's what democracy is all about," he says.

His is a love affair of colour, shape and texture and so infectious that it's hard to tear oneself away. Trips down the Amazon collecting orchids, an annual visit to India or the view over the sea from his house in south Devon are all part of the picture. In Devon, he says, he "wrestles in creative agony, setting ideas on paper to be translated on to silk".

His team of 11 use hand silk-screen printing and can take on any variation of pattern or colour provided you order 20 metres. No run-of-the-loom manufacturer can do this for he must tool up for long production runs.

Like any successful designer, it is the application of talent to the practical production problems that spell success. Michael Szell owes the practical side of his success to the years spent working for Mild Sekers at Whitehaven. Where would today's successful textile people be without the Sekers' years? He lit all the beacons by whose light others have profited since the 1950s and '60s.

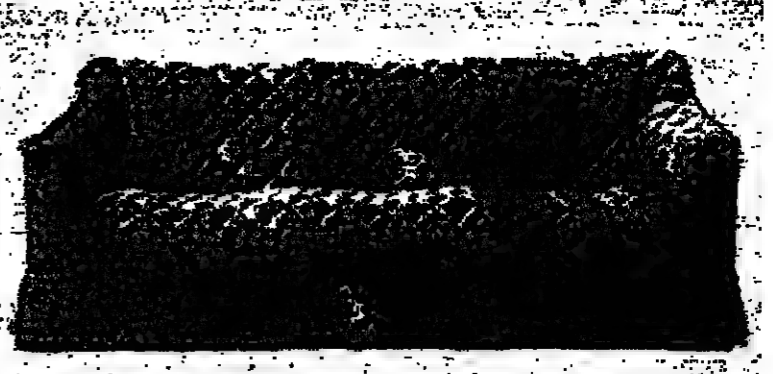
Professor Roger Nicholas was Michael Szell's teacher at the Royal College and to him, too, much is owed. It's a pleasure to find a man at the

top of his profession able to say thank you to those who set him on the path to glory.

Michael Szell arrived here from Hungary as an orphan at the age of six and there was nowhere to go but up. These real facts of life make him feel as respectful of humble people as of ambassadors' wives who order acres of beauty for embassy windows. (Of course he must know how to butter the paws of people who give themselves airs but I don't think he would ever let anyone feel they were less than personally important.)

His latest collection is inspired by Japan and began when he went there with the Royal Opera Company on tour. He understands the sophisticated understatement of Japanese design and achieves that paint on damask look that gives a three-dimensional quality to a two-dimensional art. Fine golden tea-leaf scattered on plain backgrounds and then overprinted with wisteria, peonies or cherry blossom on the bough are equally successful.

How can anyone give more than a faint impression of all this skill and beauty, colour and touch in words? Michael Szell's showroom is small, friendly and he welcomes anyone who has what he loves—perfection coming from the heart. Even if you don't have a palace to furnish, for a treat treat go to 47 Sloane Avenue, SW3.

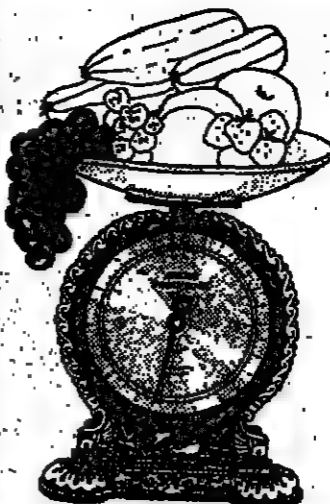


## The easy clean settee

Sitting comfortably on upholstered sofas and chairs dripping with sticky fingers, is death to decent covers. Anyone with a buttoned Chesterfield and a busy family must be ruing the day they ever thought they would be able to keep up with the mess.

Looking straight in the face, the Swedish firm of Ulferts are producing lift-off-and-clean quilted covers for their sofas and

chairs. Not cheap but thoroughly practical. For example, this three-seater sofa costs £350.95; the two-seater version is £301.60 and matching chairs are £229. Their illustrated catalogue will be sent from 12b St George Street, London W1. Retailers are Lee Longland, Birmingham; Hunter Furnishings, Ayr, Scotland; Army & Navy, London; Bentalls, Kingston, and their own showroom at 44 Maddox Street, London W1.



## Pointer from the past

As an antidote to all those hygienic kitchen fittings, squared-up white boxes with metal trim, Salter's are reproducing their first Family Scale, originally circa 1875. The curious and gilding are lovingly copied, it is made of black, cast metal and has a solid brass pan. As a concession to the rest of Europe it measures in both pounds and kilos, calibrated in 1oz or 25 gram divisions. To complete the very look even the packaging is Victorian. Costing £27.75 at John Lewis (brass dial only) or Timothy Whites (brass or white dial), it looks set to be a favourite buy for nostalgia buffs.



Small furry animals fluff themselves up in cold weather to make the most of body heat. Courtielle does the same for babies; and does it washably. This teddy bear number by Rockbury is made in four sizes: 6, 12, 18 and 24 months at prices from £6.99 to £9.99. The toggles in the front are chew-proof and the hood should keep the ears warm. The choice is pale blue, lemon, pink, red, navy, white or 'soft beige' with white tummy panel in front. From: R. N. Weekes, Tunbridge Wells; L. Phicks, Farnham; Sher Bros., Glasgow; or write to Courtielle, 13-14 Margaret Street, London, W1, for further stockists sending a stamped sae.

## The Times Cook/Shona Crawford Poole

### Flying feathers in the kitchen

It was not a pretty sight. The kitchen was full of pheasant feathers and the plucked birds were sprawled on the draining board, dark and high and not a bit like the neatly trussed specimens in the shops. With the help of stout rubber gloves, an empty stomach and a substantial scotch, I braved their interiors, and, at a loss for my brownie knots, trussed them with grannies.

They are very well too and were a rare treat in those first days of flat-sharing independence. Though now if I am given a brace of anything, the fishmonger will do the for me. Which is one of the real benefits of being a regular customer.

Roast pheasant is hard to beat, but served with fried apples and a well flavoured sauce of cream, brandy and stock, I think it tastes even better than with the traditional game chips, fried crumbs and clear gravy.

**Pheasant with cream and apples**  
Serves four  
2 young pheasants trussed with fat bacon for roasting  
Salt and freshly ground black pepper  
85 g (3 oz) butter  
2 shallots, peeled  
450 g (1 lb) Cox's orange pippin apples  
6 tablespoons game stock or water

4 tablespoons calvados or cognac  
150 ml (¼ pint) double cream

Put a small knob of butter rolled in salt and pepper and a peeled shallot inside each pheasant and place them in a roasting tin. Roast in a preheated very hot oven (220°C/425°F, gas mark 7) for about 45 minutes, or until cooked. The exact time will depend on the size of the birds and on whether you like them a little pink, or well done. Tip the juices from inside the birds into the roasting tin and set it aside. Rest the birds in a warm place until you are ready to carve them.

While the pheasants are roasting, peel, core and thinly slice the apples. Melt the remaining butter in a frying pan and sauté the apples until they are tender and beginning to brown a little, but still holding their shape. Transfer the apples to a serving dish, spread them evenly over the base and keep warm.

Carve the pheasants, taking thick slices from the breasts and severing the legs neatly. Arrange the meat on the fried apples, cover and keep warm. Use the carcasses and barding bacon for stock or discard.

Skin the fat from the juices in the roasting tin and stir in a bit of stock or water. Cook over a high heat, scraping up the crusty bits until the liquid has reduced by half. Add the

calvados or cognac and reduce again. Lastly add the cream, and reduce, stirring constantly, until the sauce has thickened slightly. Strain the sauce over the pheasant and apples and serve immediately. Serve with a few sprigs of peppery watercress and new or small main-crop potatoes peeled after cooking in their skins.

With young grouse which are sure to be plump and tender, I find fast roasting in a hot oven (220°C/425°F, gas mark 7) by far the best method of cooking them. Old birds need long, slow cooking, and this is a safer method too of dealing with any of uncertain age and tenderness.

**Grouse with chestnuts**  
Serves two to four  
450 g (1 lb) fresh chestnuts  
30 g (1 oz) butter  
3 tablespoons peanut oil  
110 g (4 oz) fat bacon, diced  
110 g (4 oz) shallots or onion, finely chopped  
2 grouse, trussed with fat bacon  
2 tablespoons cognac  
150 ml (¼ pint) game or chicken stock  
150 ml (¼ pint) red wine  
1 bouquet garni of parsley, celery, bay leaf and a sprig of thyme  
Salt and freshly ground black pepper

Using a sharp knife, slit the shiny brown skin of each chestnut on the domed surface. Lay them in a single layer, flat side down, in a roasting tray. Pour in 300 ml (½ pint) water and roast them in a preheated moderately hot oven (200°C/400°F, gas mark 6) for about 10 minutes. Peel the chestnuts as soon as they are cool enough to handle and set the aside.

Heat the butter and oil in a heavy fireproof casserole and sauté the bacon dice until they are crisp and golden. Remove the bacon and add the shallots or onion, and cook until soft but not browned. Remove the shallots and add the grouse. Brown them quickly on all sides. Drain off all but a tablespoon of the fat, return the bacon to the casserole and sprinkle with cognac. Light the cognac, and when the flames die down, return the shallots to the casserole and add the stock, wine, bouquet garni, salt and pepper. Cover and simmer on a low heat until the birds are tender. Add the chestnuts and continue cooking until the chestnuts are tender too.

To serve, remove the grouse from the casserole and take off the crusting strings and barding bacon. Cut off the legs and carve the breast meat in one section for each side. Return the meat to the casserole, and when it is heated through again, serve with baked or fluffy mashed potatoes.

## Gardening/Roy Hay

### Tips for your present list

This week, with Christmas in mind, I offer a few items which you might care to give a garden minded relative or friend, or even to give yourself, as they are worth having and good value.

First is a new electrically heated propagating frame, the Greenspear GSP20. It is 10in high, 17in long and 12in wide. Well made in high quality plastic the base contains the built in electric heating element, thermostatically controlled between 70°F and 80°F, but the temperature may be reduced by opening the vents in the clear plastic dome cover or by raising or removing the cover.

Supplied with the propagator are two plastic 'half' seed trays, a narrow tray and five 4in square plastic pots. Available in garden shops at about £20 or from Greenspear Products, Progress Drive, Bridgwater, Camstock, Staffs for £21.90, including postage. Our garden over the years became a bit overgrown and needed some drastic treatment so we employed a splendid man from our local garden contractor for a few days and he was delighted with two garden aids he had not met before. One was the Humper Dumper, a large sheet of woven 5ft square plastic with a handle at each corner.

You lay it on the lawn or a path and throw all the debris from cut down plants and weeds or leaves on to it. Then you gather up the four corners into one hand, sling

the thing over your shoulder and take it off to the rubbish heap.

It holds about as much as a small barrow and just empties it on to the top of the heap. Too often the heap is too high to tip the barrow on to it so you have to fork all the rubbish out by hand. It costs £10.95 (£12.40 post paid).

From the same manufacturer has come a handy 'Harvest Trug'. Also of rot proof woven plastic, it is not shaped like a traditional wooden trug but is more like a square basket about 9ins square and 5ins deep with two long plastic woven cord handles. It will hold 14lbs of fruit or vegetables, is easy to clean and folds away flat. It costs £2.95 (£3.65 post paid).

The other item that he really fell for is the 'Grabber Rake'. This consists of two 16in wide plastic blades, one of which you use to rake rubbish or leaves into small heaps. Then, by an ingenious device on the handle, you bring the two blades together and grip the rubbish and lift it into your barrow or on to your Humper Dumper. It costs £5.75 (£6.75 post paid).

It may seem ridiculous to talk about irrigation equipment at this time of year but we will surely have need to apply water to the garden at some periods next year, so a sprinkler for a present may be welcomed eventually.

For the ordinary medium sized garden, the oscillating sprinklers and the 'Flip flap'

or impulse sprinklers are the best bet. Hozelock Ltd, Haddenham, Aylesbury, Bucks, have a good range of such sprinklers, and their model, H543, which costs £14.33 (£16.88 post paid), is a very versatile piece of equipment.

It is a 'Flip flap' sprinkler which will water a circle of up to 50 feet diameter or parts of a circle according to the water pressure. It is mounted on a tripod and may be adjusted from 2½ins to 44ins in height.

Hozelock have also produced a neat low voltage garden lighting set to illuminate patios and steps, awkward corners in the garden or merely to light up interesting features. The small, mushroom shaped lanterns are mounted on ground spikes and the lamps are powered from a 12 volt transformer, so that one can move them about safely from one part of the garden to another.

Extension tubes raise the lanterns 27ins above the ground if desired, and about 15 yards of low voltage cable is supplied. The set of four lanterns and the transformer costs £55.17 (£67.52 post paid).

Another thought for a present to anybody or to yourself—half-a-dozen, or maybe a dozen, plants of heathers—varieties of *Erica carnea* and its hybrids. These are really splendid plants to give as gifts.

In our garden we had a heather 'patch' which bore flowers off and on during the summer but which is now just beginning to unravel its splendid show which will go on until March or April. The bed is now about 15 years old and the plants completely cover the ground.

If you are doubtful about the acidity or otherwise of your soil you are safe with *Erica carnea* and hybrids as they will grow in any reasonably fertile soil, acid or alkaline.

Shareholders' perks, page 18

# Business News

THE TIMES Saturday November 7 1981

Your money market best buys, page 19

## Triumph Acclaim is fifth best selling car

By Edward Townsend  
Industrial Correspondent

BL's Japanese-designed Triumph Acclaim, launched just over four weeks ago, has shot into the sales charts to become the country's fifth best selling car last month.

The company took the opportunity of the sales figures yesterday to announce the beginning of a night shift on the Acclaim production line at Cowley and the recruitment of 400 extra workers at the plant to build the Rover.

The success of the Acclaim—greater than many BL executives had hoped—reflects the considerable interest shown in the car by fleet as well as private buyers. It will be regarded as a boost to morale after the uncertainty of the last few weeks when the state-owned group faced the possibility of extinction because of the latest pay dispute.

Assisted largely by the Acclaim and the continuing popularity of the Metro, BL's market share in the first 10 months was on target at 19.4 per cent. The company's total sales in the period of 256,811 compare with Ford's 403,975 (30.5 per cent).

BL said yesterday that because of the "remarkable success" of the Acclaim, of which 3,279 were sold in October, it gave the model a 3 per cent market share, a night shift would be operated at Cowley for the first time in two years.

Acclaims are currently being built at the rate of 300 a week on a day shift but the hourly rate of 33 cars is thought to be straining production facilities. Some day

### NEW CAR REGISTRATIONS

(August to October)

	1981	1980
BL	18.3	17.9
Ford	30.2	26.7
Vauxhall/Opel	7.5	8.1
PSA	11.9	9.3
Japanese	11.9	15.6
Total imports	59.9	58.2

workers, augmented by others from Cowley's larger labour pool, are now to be asked to work a night shift, reducing the rate to 20 cars a day but boosting the weekly total to 1,500.

The revival in United Kingdom car sales in the last three months has renewed hopes in the industry that the year's total will be 800,000, below the 1980 figure of 1,531,000. In the first 10 months, sales reached 1,322,698, just 3.5 per cent lower than a year earlier.

Imported cars accounted for 57 per cent of the market last month, compared with 51 per cent a year ago, but in the 10 months their share fell from 57.8 to 55.9 per cent.

In the top 10 sales list, the Ford Fiesta and BL Metro continue to battle for third and fourth places, with the Ford Cortina and Escort clear leaders.

In the United States, October's unexpected 25 per cent plunge in domestic car sales has forced production cutbacks and temporary shutdowns for factories. The moves have made 31,775 hourly paid workers idle.

## Reagan faced with deficit of \$145,000m

From Bailey Morris, Washington, Nov 6

President Reagan has been given a grim forecast by his own economic advisers who predict that the United States deficit could soar to \$145,000m (£77,000m) by 1984 unless there is a drastic change in policy.

The new deficit figure is said to be the more moderate projection among a number of conflicting estimates circulating among Mr Reagan's economic advisers who are divided sharply over their forecasts of growth for the next three years.

Officials at the Office of Management and Budget confirm that new forecasts indicate that economic activity has declined much more sharply than Mr Reagan had expected. They predict growth will drop at an annual rate of 4 per cent or more this quarter.

The forecast, coupled with a half of 1 per cent increase in unemployment last month bringing the total to 8 per cent, the highest since 1975, is sharpening the already open conflict among the President's key advisers.

Mr David Stockman, the budget director, recommended again this week that Mr Reagan reverse economic course and seek big new tax increases to avoid large deficits in 1983 and 1984 while Mr Donald Regan, the Treasury Secretary, continued to oppose them.

Meanwhile, Republican Senate leaders attended an urgent

meeting at the White House yesterday morning in an attempt to resolve their differences with Mr Reagan by agreeing on a new fiscal strategy.

Several influential Senate Republicans urged Mr Reagan this week either to abandon publicly his notion of balancing the United States budget by 1984 or to agree to big tax increases.

But the President does not intend to change his policy by raising taxes and will attempt, instead, to reduce the deficit by seeking still bigger budget cuts. A White House official said.

However, Congressional leaders, including prominent Republicans such as Mr Howard Baker, Senate majority leader, doubt whether Congress will agree to steep new cuts before the 1982 election.

"The President may have to give up his notion of a balanced budget by 1984," one prominent senator said, and indeed Mr Reagan appeared to retreat from his earlier commitment to balance the budget in a statement issued before his meeting with Republicans.

"I have never said anything but that it was a goal and the eventual goal, whether it comes then (in 1984) or whether it has to be delayed," Mr Reagan said.

### Jobless rate worsens

By Our Own Correspondent, Washington, Nov 6

Unemployment in the United States rose a full half percentage point to 8 per cent last month, the highest level since the severe recession in 1975, the Labour Department said yesterday.

The latest figures show across-the-board unemployment and illustrate the deepening recession in the United States, which is causing an increasing number of layoffs and plant closings, particularly in manufacturing and related industries in the South and Middle West.

Last month the jobless rate among white male heads of households rose from 6.2 per cent to 6.7 per cent.

The situation is even worse among minority workers who traditionally suffer higher unemployment and have greater difficulty finding work after economic downturns.

By the end of last month, the total number of unemployed had increased to 8.5 million, including a record number of black workers at 15.5 per cent are now unemployed and young people whose jobless rate has soared to 43 per cent.

The latest figures reflect what the Reagan Administration called a "substantial deterioration in the labour market," and provide the president's critics with new ammunition.

Three independent economic forecasting firms issued new projections this week forecasting average unemployment next year of 9 per cent, possibly rising to 9.5 per cent by the end of the year, the level experienced during the oil-rocked economy of 1975.

### Move to win back £40m a year tax shortfall

By Drew Johnston

Proposals were published yesterday by the Inland Revenue for plugging a £40m a year tax gap caused by workers employed through employment agencies forming one-man limited companies.

The Government move against the practice was contained in Clause 34 of its Finance Bill, which was later withdrawn after representations from employment agencies and individual companies that it could damage the small business sector.

The withdrawal, however, earned the Government severe criticism from the influential Parliamentary Public Accounts Committee, which said it deprecated the Government's action. The committee said that the Treasury would lose about £40m this year, as a result of delaying.

Clause 34 originally intended employment agencies to deduct 30 per cent from all payments made where the services of the agency workers were provided through a limited company.

The withdrawal, however, earned the Government severe criticism from the influential Parliamentary Public Accounts Committee, which said it deprecated the Government's action. The committee said that the Treasury would lose about £40m this year, as a result of delaying.

## Monopolies reference for £25m Serck deal

By Simon Proctor

The future of the £25m takeover of Serck, the valve manufacturer by the BTR engineering group was thrown into doubt yesterday afternoon by the surprise decision of the Department of Trade to refer the bid to the Monopolies Commission.

The announcement immediately prompted Serck's shares to fall 13p to 45p as the bid automatically lapses under the terms of the offer. BTR's shares fell 14p to 32p.

It is now up to BTR, which already owns 50.2 per cent of Serck, to decide whether it wishes to go ahead with the deal or attempt to divest itself of the stake.

The referral of the bid to the commission, which has the usual six months to report, comes as a blow to BTR which in recent years has expanded swiftly, partly through acquisition of firms in its own areas of business.

Although the reference is being made under the standard criteria that the total assets being acquired exceed £15m in value, it is believed to be the first time the Government has decided to take a look at the way conglomerates operate, especially when it comes to moving into areas of new business.

The Monopolies Commission usually concentrates on areas affecting competition in the United Kingdom, and it will almost certainly take in this aspect as well as the effect the deal would have on employment and the balance of payments.

BTR launched its 60p a share bid for Serck in September after picking up an 11 per cent stake in a "dawn raid" and buying 30 per cent from Rockwell Group of the United States. The shareholding was quickly taken above 50 per cent.

The referral places both companies in an acutely difficult position. If BTR wishes to pursue Serck, it will have to argue its policies before the Commission.

### EXCO SHARES ON OFFER AT 140p

By Peter Wilson-Smith

Prospectuses giving details of an offer for sale of shares in Exco, will be available on Monday.

Exco is the holding company for Aslety & Pearce and Godsell Group, two leading London brokers, and is being brought to the market by N. M. Rothschild. The price of 140p values the group at £59.5m, and the shares are being offered on a 4.6 per cent yield.

City analysts expect the issue to be oversubscribed. Exco's profits rose from £2.3m in 1977 to £6m in 1980 and similar profits for the 12 months to June 30 would have been more than £10m, assuming a contribution from the group's investment in Telerate, the information service group, and benefits of the issue proceeds.

The issue will raise £19.9m of which Exco will get £10.5m after expenses and £8.7m will go to shareholders who are selling shares. After the issue directors will still hold 27 per cent, employees 15 and the public 31 per cent.

### Treasury Bill rate falls below 15pc

City views on the likelihood of an early cut in clearing bank base rates were mixed yesterday after a week that has seen a continued easing in short-term money rates.

At yesterday's weekly tender for three months Treasury Bills, the average rate of discount, at which bills were allocated, fell from 15.66 to 14.89 per cent.

The Bank of England dropped the rate at which it bought short-term bills marginally in the course of its open market operations. The rate for Band 1 bills eased from 15.1 to 15.16 per cent.

Although the easing of rates on both sides of the Atlantic has encouraged hopes that United Kingdom banks might trim their base rates to 15 per cent before too long, the general mood remains one of caution.

There is considerable doubt as to how much further United States rates are likely to fall. Although yesterday's news of a sharp rise in United States unemployment saw short



Dealers crowd the Wedd. Durlacher pitch on a hectic first day's trading.

## Cable and Wireless shares sale gets off to spectacular start

By Margaret Pagano

Government telecommunications move yet Wedd. Durlacher, the City's leading jobbing firm, has decorated its pitch with maps of Cable's world telecommunications network, its motif and miniature replicas on the roof.

Dealers themselves looked on form, adorned, alongside their name labels, with blue and white Cable stickers and the seasonal poppy.

Cable's launch of 50 per cent of its shares to the public had attracted the biggest number of potential investors ever recorded and could have secured £125m of private funds.

Of the 133 million shares on offer some City observers were suggesting last night, turnover in the day's business could have been as high as 50 million shares changing hands. Turnover of a third is considered normal in a new issue.

The morning started when a euphoric roar rang out from the impatient dealers to greet the 9.30 am bell which called in Cable's public life. Within seconds the waiting crowd, calculators and walkie-talkies ready in hand, jostled and

pushed to weave their way through the jobbers by then firmly pinned behind the crush against the back of the pitch.

Sell orders were instantly placed by those known as "stags" in the market—out to make quick killing. Easy profits mounted up as shares smartly jumped to 202p and then crept to 205p. So City estimates that the premium price would be at least between 15p and 20p have proved right but those betting on up to 45p missed out, and no doubt will be looking closely at next week's movements.

In those minutes of strangled investors, who knew the results of their applications only in the morning, could have made from a single maximum share allocation a profit of £765,000.

For Kleinwort Benson, underwriters to the issue, applied a factor because the £224m offer for sale with 5.6 times over subscription. Applicants for under 1,000 shares received 30 per cent but investors who had asked for over five million got only 13 per cent subject to the maximum of 2.25 million.

### FRANCE MAY EASE CONTROLS

From Michael Parrott, Paris, Nov 6

France's devaluation of the franc last month has passed off so successfully that the Government is now considering relaxation of exchange controls, according to sources within the Finance Ministry.

Among the possible modifications, the Government is expected to announce at the beginning of next week, importers of essential raw materials might be allowed to buy currencies on a forward basis again. This right was abolished in September 21.

Greater freedom may also be given to importers in particularly difficult situations. But controls on exporting companies, who are still benefiting from the devaluation, are likely to remain.

A more relaxed attitude towards exchange controls is based on the strong inflow of funds since the adjustment on October 4 of the French currency.

### Britain told to be bolder

Nigerian businessmen have urged Britain to be more aggressive in pursuit of contracts. "This is a friendly challenge and one to which we certainly want to rise," Mr Peter Rees, British Minister of Trade to Lagos, said yesterday.

Mr Rees, who is joint leader of an 11-man business delegation on a five-day visit to Nigeria said members of the delegation had been told to be more aggressive by several Nigerian ministers.

In answer to a question whether members of the delegation would be returning home with large contracts Mr Rees said: "I cannot say that any member of the team has signed any particular contract here and now, but the ground has been laid for a few future contracts which we will be bringing back to the UK."

### Tight monetary policy 'stays'

South Africa's tight monetary policy will continue in view of existing inflationary pressures and a large current account payments deficit, the Reserve Bank said.

Reserve Bank policy is to pursue a tight monetary policy, including the decline in the value of South Africa's gold output and other exports, to exert a contractionary influence on money supply and domestic monetary demand.

The bank said that tight monetary policy had helped cut annualized M2 money supply growth to about 12 per cent in the third quarter of this year from 34.6 per cent in the year ended March 31.

### Scots launch export drive

Scotland launched its biggest export drive yesterday when two groups of businessmen flew to Mexico and Hong Kong under the auspices of the Scottish Council for Development and Industry.

The 23-strong delegation to Mexico is being led by Councillor Charles O'Halloran, Convenor of Strathclyde Regional Council.

At the same time 22 businessmen and women flew to Hong Kong. They will be followed by a party of 31 next week.

Mr Hanish Morrison, chief executive of the Scottish Council, said: "The recession has caused a marked increase in the effort made by Scottish companies to win new export business."

### Bill seeks double limit

The Nuclear Industry (Finance) Bill, published yesterday seeks to double the £500m limit to which the Government will guarantee the borrowing of British Nuclear Fuels (BNFL).

The financial limit includes direct loans raised privately by BNFL and guaranteed by the Government.

### No objection to Playboy deal

The Gaming Board appears to have raised no initial objections to Playboy's £17m sale of its casino and betting shops to Trident Television.

The board's approval is needed because of a trust, set up by Playboy in 1976, and through which 75 per cent of the shares of Playboy Clubs in London were owned by the Chicago parent company.

## More oil companies to raise prices

Motorists face an increase of up to 4p a gallon for petrol from next week as more oil companies follow Texaco's lead in raising prices to recover retail losses and meet new rates set by oil producing nations.

The British National Oil Corporation decided yesterday to increase the price of a barrel of its crude by \$1.50 to \$36.50 because of the Opec decision, backdated to November 1. The rise is not as large as was feared because African oil producers, whose output compares with that of the North Sea, have maintained prices lower than were forecast soon after the Opec decision.

The BNOC rise would mean an increase of between two to three pence a gallon at filling stations. But the move has already been set at four pence a gallon by the Texaco company which raised its prices from Thursday midnight.

With all the British oil companies claiming a loss on retail supplies at the moment, they are now expected to recoup some of this loss by following the Texaco lead.

BP, Shell and Esso, which supply 55 per cent of the nation's petrol, said yesterday that they were studying BNOC's rise. They may announce their own increases next Monday.

BNOC's move follows a week of discussions with the companies and the Government, which had expected a \$2 rise in a barrel of crude's prices. The move puts North Sea crude oil at the same level as Nigeria's for current contracts.

Libya is now reported to be asking \$37.50 for a barrel of Zaidiyan crude which was quoted before the Opec deal at \$39.50, while Algeria is reported to be selling at \$38, a fall of \$2 a barrel.

### Injunction to stop ships' sale

By Michael Kelly, Shipping Correspondent

A High Court injunction was obtained in London yesterday by Pakistan's national shipping line to stop Poland selling off three ships worth about £20m built for Pakistan but not delivered.

It is the latest move in a dispute that has blown up between the two countries, arising essentially from Poland's financial difficulties and constant strikes affecting its shipyards in Gdansk.

Pakistan's 46-ship National Shipping Corporation ordered eight cargo liners in Poland in 1979 as part of an order worldwide of which Britain's Austin and Titchmarsh won three.

But in August, Australia's Pickerships has completed its order virtually on time. Pakistan's ships are a year late and there have been constant attempts, Pakistan says, to raise the price despite a fixed-price contract and substitute cash for 90 per cent credit.

Admiral Waheed Bhombal, the chairman of the Pakistan company, said that Poland's problems were readily acknowledged and found sympathy in Pakistan, but not the attempt to pick on a weak country and in the process, inflict heavy damage on its national shipping line.

### Zimbabwe trucks

Fiat eight-ton Iveco trucks are to be assembled in Zimbabwe, according to Mr Douglas Britton, resident director of Iveco in Zimbabwe for Alfa Romeo and Fiat.

The trucks will be put together on an existing assembly line. The truck plants are not operating at full capacity because scarcity of foreign exchange to buy kits abroad.

The Salisbury Government has given its approval to the operation, which will probably start at the end of the year.

Gold Star, South Korea's leading electronics producer, has completed financing arrangements for the first South Korean factory in the United States. The \$6m colour television assembly plant is being built in Huntsville, Alabama.

Y & O cruises has expanded its growing interest in the American leisure industry with the acquisition of a prime-site lease in Los Angeles for use as a luxury restaurant. The new 200-seat restaurant in the Beverly Hills area will open in early summer 1982.

The United States' basic money supply M1B fell to a seasonally adjusted average of \$481.0bn in the week ended October 28 from \$434.0bn the previous week.

For the latest four weeks M1B averaged \$433.400m, a 3.1 per cent rate of gain compared with the end of the last quarter.

The narrower money supply known as M1A fell to an average of \$339.000m in the week ended October 28 from \$362.000m a week ago.

### Stock Markets

FT Index 494.5 up 9.8  
FT Gilt 62.09 down 0.07  
FT All Share 299.74 down 3.91  
Bargains 23,288

### Sterling

\$ 1.8775 up 55 points  
Index 89.2 up 0.2  
New York: \$188.30

### Dollar

Index 107.5 up 0.5  
DM 2.2220 up 18 points

### Gold

\$428.00 down \$1.25  
New York: \$428.25

### Money

3mth sterling 151-152  
3mth Euro 150-151  
6mth Euro \$141-142

### PRICE CHANGES

#### Rises

Amal Metal	51p to 615p
Barclays Bank	18p to 448p
City Offices	7p to 102p
Eng China Clay	5p to 135p
Concordia	3p to 57p
Hickson & Welch	5p to 173p
Hinton A	18p to 288p
Kode Int	10p to 708p
Ratners	3p to 45p
Sanger	3p to 36p
Sercombe Mars	5p to 176p
Watnough	10p to 220p
Weeks Petrol	10p to 325p
Whittingham W	5p to 122p
Yarrow	3p to 269p

#### Falls

BTR	10p to 306p
Black & Edg'tn	5p to 44p
Broken Hill	25p to 640p
Davies & Newman	15p to 65p
De La Rue	10p to 600p
GEC	25p to 474p
Lasmo	15p to 460p
Mercantile Hse	11p to 320p
Plessey	13p to 357p
Racal Elect	13p to 293p
Serck	13p to 45p
Shell Trans	12p to 385p
Ultramar	15p to 459p

## PERSONAL INVESTMENT AND FINANCE

## Pensions

## A way around the transfer trap

Employees who change jobs often get a raw deal when it comes to pensions. The problem of "early leavers" — and many who fall into this category do not change jobs from choice but are made redundant — has been highlighted with the publication, earlier this week, of the National Association of Pension Funds' thoughts in this thorny problem.

The NAFP takes the line that those who change jobs should be aware of the effect that moving will have on future pension benefits and take this into account before making the decision. The Occupational Pensions Board on the other hand, took the view that the present situation is unfair and that legislation is needed to improve the degree of protection given to those who leave a pension scheme early.

While the Government considers whether or not it will go ahead with the OPB's recommendations, insurers London and Manchester have developed a new pension scheme — Transplan — which goes a long way towards providing a better deal for those who move.

Transplan will generally give a more attractive pension at retiring age than the alternatives offered to an employee who is changing jobs.

Pension schemes are designed to benefit those who stay with one employer throughout their working lives and a company is rarely inclined to be generous with pension benefits to those who make a move.

Ex-employees are usually given the option of leaving their pension contributions in the company's pension fund where they will be "frozen" until retirement age, or taking a transfer value of a lump sum which will buy benefits

usually not as good — in the new employer's pension scheme.

In many pension funds the contributions earn little or no interest during the years until the ex-employee retires. London and Manchester's Transplan offers the chance to take the transfer value and invest it in secure, fixed interest securities, which will earn a minimum guaranteed return of 6 per cent a year and the possibility of something significantly higher.

The fund to which Transplan is linked has earned an average return of 11.5 per cent for the past six years. The effects on the ultimate pension expectation of an employee changing jobs can be dramatic.

London & Manchester quotes as an example, a 43-year-old executive who was offered a "transfer value" of £2,982 from his former employer's pension fund, or the alternative of a pension of £2,692 a year at age 65, with a widow's benefit of £1,346 a year if he died after retirement.

By taking the transfer value and investing it in Transplan, he would get a guaranteed minimum pension of £1,522 a year, less than with his former employer, but an estimated pension of £2,426 a year, assuming that the interest additions to his initial lump sum averaged 11.5 per cent. Even if the 11.5 per cent return turned out to be an over-estimation of 2 or 3 per cent (and there is a guarantee of a return of 6 per cent) it is obvious that the chances are that he will do much better with Transplan than with his former employer's scheme.

London and Manchester paid 14.5 per cent on money invested in their fund last year. The attractions of the scheme are that money is

absolutely safe — it is invested in gilts (government stocks) and debentures, and that the rate of return earned on the money is almost invariably going to be higher than the conservative assumptions made by the actuaries of any pension fund.

When an employee leaves a company pension fund the actuary is asked to calculate both the transfer value and the deferred pension. He will make his calculations assuming a certain rate of return on the fund's investments — say, an average of 8 or 9 per cent. But if, as is likely, the actual return is higher, the deferred pension (the early leaver) derives no benefit from this extra interest — it is simply ploughed back into the fund and is used to offset contributions levels or pay other benefits.

The same applies to the actuary calculating the benefits for a new employee bringing his lump sum "transfer" value. If the fund performs better than expected, the new employee will receive no extra benefit.

Transplan gets round this problem to a great extent, and has been approved by the Inland Revenue as an acceptable alternative for employees leaving pension schemes which are both "contracted in" and "contracted out" of the state earnings-related pension scheme.

London and Manchester reckons that employees with transfer values totalling £200m a year are receiving less than a fair deal because early leavers receive such low priority from pension fund trustees. Transplan is, so far, the only scheme of its kind available, but it should not be long before other insurance companies follow suit.

Lorna Bourke

## Shareholders' perks

## Do you want to hire a train?

Perks for shareholders, ranging from a free funeral to a case of champagne, are listed in the latest review produced by stockbrokers Grieson Grant.

Grieson Grant have had long experience of private client business and admit that clients will buy the shares of companies which offer perks, irrespective of the investment potential.

If you are a sucker for a giveaway, the list is fascinating. Shareholders in furniture company, Beal & Son (Holdings), can get a 10 per cent discount at the group's three stores; and anyone with relatives on the Isle of Man might fancy a few shares in the Isle of Man Steam Packet company which offers a discount of 50 per cent on the return ferry trip.

Lombard offers its shareholders a discount at Metropolitan Hotels and a negotiable discount on Audi and Volkswagen cars, while Key Centre Properties invites shareholders on a four-day excursion to Gibraltar at the company's expense — but you have to attend the annual meeting.

Billard Franks can get a discount of 15 to 20 per cent on tables and accessories if they are prepared to buy 500 shares in E. J. Riley; and railway enthusiasts with a stake in the Romney Hythe and Dymchurch Light Railway Company qualify for a number of travel passes — plus the impressive right to hire a complete train once a year at no cost.

Gardeners might like to buy a few shares in Spear and Jackson, which will enable them to a discount on hand and garden tools.

Ting Hall Securities, promoters of growing "new enterprise" companies, offers its shareholders the chance to participate in the company's new ventures — a somewhat speculative privilege.

A full list of the perks and discounts available to shareholders is obtainable from Grieson Grant.



National Savings

## Stripping off the income

National Savings certificates are not the most glamorous investment — but they have their uses. The new twenty-third issue, which will show a return of 10.5 per cent tax free over the five-year term, is an attractive bet for all but the non-taxpayer. Only the index-linked issue, the erstwhile Granny Bonds, now available to all — looks like turning in a better return.

Those who buy NS certificates are attracted by the return but may need an income-producing investment. They find it frustrating that certificates have to be held for the full five years to obtain the best return.

It is possible to strip out "income" from the certificates by systematic encash-

ments of units each year. The tables below show the number of certificates which should be encashed each year to obtain income, but return the capital intact after five years.

Plan A produces an escalating income. Plan B a more or less level income. In each case a total of 78 units is encashed, leaving at the end of the five-year period 122 units worth £41.20 each or £5,026.40.

The plans are based on the maximum investment of £5,000 but can be scaled down for smaller sums. Certificates are available in various denominations, starting at £25 units.

Annual returns on the escalating income scheme are 8.7 per cent in the first year, 9.5 per cent in the second,

10.5 per cent in the third, 10.9 per cent in the fourth rising to 12.3 per cent by the fifth year.

The more or less level income scheme shows an average annual return of 10.2 per cent over the five-year term.

Few people imagine that inflation is likely to run at much below its present level of 11.5 per cent to 12 per cent a year, so investors who do not already hold the inflation-proof index-linked issue (formerly Granny Bonds) will probably do best to buy these first, rather than the new 23rd issue of savings certificates.

LB

Annual income schemes for 23rd issue National Savings Certificates, leaving original £5,000 intact at the end of the five-year term

PLAN A				PLAN B			
At end of	Number of £25 units encashed	Encashment value £	At end of	Number of £25 units encashed	Encashment value £	At end of	Number of £25 units encashed
1st year	18	438.00	1st year	18	438.00	1st year	18
2nd year	18	477.76	2nd year	17	507.62	2nd year	17
3rd year	18	526.72	3rd year	16	526.72	3rd year	16
4th year	15	549.15	4th year	14	512.54	4th year	14
5th year	15	618.00	5th year	13	535.50	5th year	13
Total	78	2,607.63	Total	78	2,572.98	Total	78

## Guaranteed bonus bond

Guaranteed Bonus Bonds from Schroder Life offer a return of 10.75 per cent net of basic rate tax for a four-year investment. Investors who need interest payments more frequently can opt to take

half-yearly payments at the annual rate of 10.5 per cent net of basic rate tax.

For higher rate taxpayers and anyone liable to pay the investment income surcharge the return may be lower

because they may have a further tax liability.

This new bond — effectively a four-year income bond — replaces the existing issue which had a higher return of 11.5 per cent

Lorna Bourke

## Don't all pension schemes for smaller businesses provide the same benefits?

NO.

A tailor-made VIP Scheme provides the smaller business with an easy-to-administer pension and life assurance package that's as flexible and comprehensive as a large company scheme and is backed by London Life's excellent performance record.

It's easy to assume that all insurance companies are much the same with each one offering pension schemes that have little to choose between them.

But that's not the case at all. London Life is different. For a start, it doesn't pay a single penny in commission — either to intermediaries or its own staff. What's more, London Life is a mutual company which means that profits are passed on to policyholders and not to outside shareholders.

Differences like these enable London Life to offer a pension scheme for the smaller business that stands out from the rest — the VIP Scheme.

Through the VIP Scheme, an employer can provide selected employees (from directors and senior executives to general members of staff) with an exceptionally attractive pension package which has the special feature of allowing an employee to take his accrued benefits with him without penalty should he leave the company's service.

To find out more about the benefits that the VIP Scheme offers a company and its employees, please complete the coupon. We'll send you full details, right away.

To John Lowe, The London Life Association Limited, Freepost, 100 Temple Street, Bristol BS1 6JY (no stamp required).  
I'd like to know more about London Life's VIP Scheme.  
Please send me also full information on:  
Pension Schemes for Directors/Executives  
Voluntary Contribution Schemes (for those wishing to top up their company pension scheme benefits)  
Pension and Life Assurance Plans for the Self-Employed  
Savings Plans  
Unit-Linked Assurance  
Family Protection Benefits (tick boxes).

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_  
Tel Nos. Business \_\_\_\_\_  
Home \_\_\_\_\_

If you prefer, you can call John Lowe on (01273) 279179 to discuss your requirements personally.

**A better value pension plan from a different kind of company**



## Insurance Scheme for pampered pets

The British are notorious for their preference for pets over people and the Pru has seen the opportunity to cash in on it.

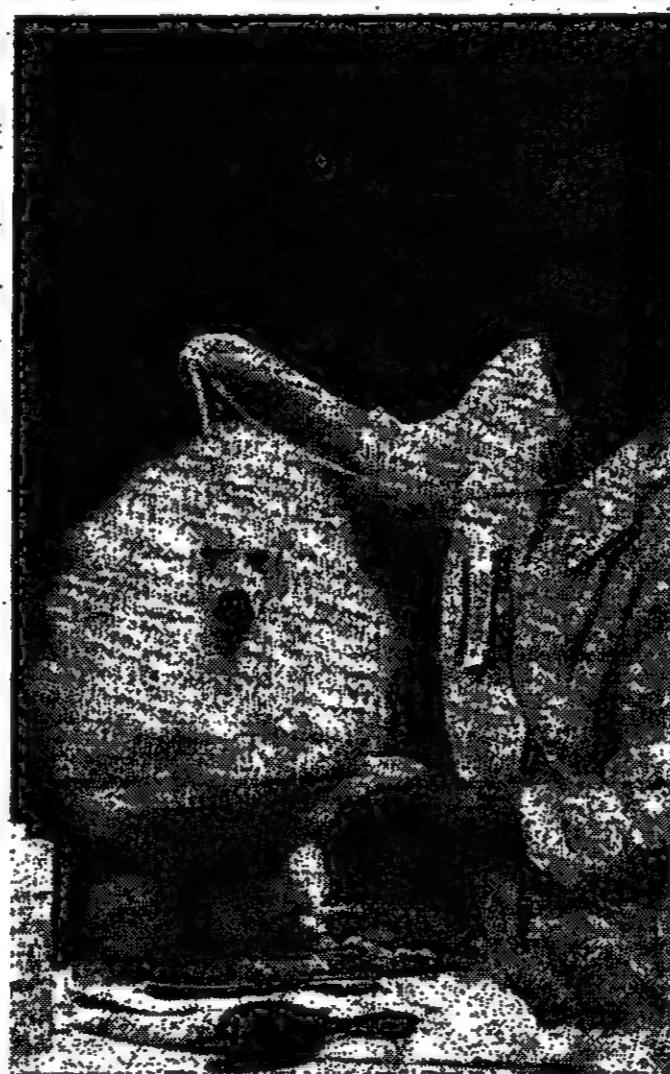
A new insurance policy from Prudential Assurance, called PruPet and aimed at Britain's 12 million pet owners, will provide cover for vets' fees and a cash sum on the death of a favourite animal.

Premiums range from £15 to £30 a year and the family pet, regardless of age, pedigree or previous medical history, can be insured for a death benefit of £50 to £150. This will also cover vets' fees of up to £100 per illness, with the owner having to find the first £5 of each claim.

If the animal strays or is lost, there is help with the cost of advertising to find the missing pet.

Animals get rather better treatment than humans under this scheme — PruPet does not require a pet's veterinary examination before the policy is issued. Pre-existing diseases will be covered by the insurance, though the animal must not be sick, nor receiving treatment, at the start of the insurance cover.

The policy is available from any branch of PruPet, or from the company's sales force.



A miniature poodle is made to look its best.

## Unit trusts

## America vies with Japan for top spot

After the sharp setback in several important world stock markets during September, last month's experience was much less traumatic.

The Tokyo New Stock Exchange Index, for instance, ended October a mere 0.1 per cent below the level of four weeks before. This performance has enabled funds concentrating in particular on the Japanese economy, to continue their domination of the leading positions in the 1981 unit trust league table.

However, several funds investing in the United States put up a good showing last

The unit trust performance figures printed as a service to readers have had to be held over until next week. Because of pressure on space we are contemplating reducing the number of unit trusts in the table — perhaps to the top and bottom 10 in each sector. We would be glad to hear the views of readers on this proposed change.

month and are mounting a challenge to the Far Eastern supremacy. Trusts substan-

tially involved in the American market now hold nine of the first 20 places.

Many of the leading funds invested in the United States specialise in the smaller capitalisation and recovery situation stocks. These trusts tend to be volatile performers which has been confirmed by their records over the last couple of months. They fell more sharply than many of the funds invested in first line American stocks in September, but recovered more strongly in October.

Stuart Goldsmith, investment director at the Britannia unit trust group, recommends that such trusts, because of their volatility, should only be part of most North American portfolios. However, he also draws attention to an attraction of these funds in present economic conditions.

Many small companies are often in growth areas which can achieve a good return on capital. Britannia's funds, for example, favour such fashionable areas as high technology, health care and environmental control. If investment man-

agers get their stock selection right, the portfolios can frequently buck the market trend.

One stock market which continued to decline last month was Australia. The Australian Metals & Minerals Index tumbled more than 12 per cent while the All Ordinaries Index was 4 per cent lower. All three of the industry's long running Aus-

tralian funds, managed by Barclays Unicorn, Henderson and M & G, now appear in the last twenty. This is a dramatic change of fortune compared with 1980 when all ended the year in the top ten.

Otherwise at the wrong end of last year's league table, energy and commodity trusts feature frequently.

LB

## Top Ten Performers

Value of £100 invested for 10 months to 1 November, net income reinvested

Trust	Value
1. Hill Samuel Far East	£146.70
2. Arbuthnot Eastern & Inter.	£139.90
3. Crescent Tokyo	£132.10
4. Henderson Japan	£131.90
5. Goshima Japan	£131.30
6. S & P Japan Growth	£131.00
7. Target Pacific	£130.00
8. Bishopsgate International	£130.00
9. Britannia American Smaller Co.	£129.70
10. Tyndall North American	£129.60

Source: Planned Savings Magazine.

## In brief

## Two new currency funds

Two new currency funds just launched by bankers Manufacturers Hanover, give investors the opportunity to buy either American dollars or take a stake in a managed currency fund.

Geofund Liquid Assets, the dollar fund, is based in Guernsey. Investors must be prepared to put up a minimum of £10,000. They can expect an initial yield of around 14.5 per cent and they have the choice of taking this as income or leaving it to roll up in accumulation units.

If they do the latter they could eventually be liable for income tax on the interest, rather than capital gains tax, as this is a grey area under review by the Revenue.

The Multi Currency Income Trust is a managed currency fund denominated in American dollars, where investors are paying to have the managers take a view on currencies and switch accordingly. Minimum investment is again £10,000.

There is a 0.25 per cent spread between the bid and offer price on both funds and a 0.5 per cent annual management charge on value of funds managed in the Liquid Assets Fund, with a 0.75 per cent annual charge on the Multi Currency Fund.

## Loans for students

Students having difficulties making ends meet at law school can get fairly cheap loans under a new scheme launched by National Westminster Bank. Loans of up to £2,000 for one-year courses, or £5,000 for two-year courses, are available at what NatWest describes as a "concessionary" rate of 1 per cent over the bank's base rate, at present 15.5 per cent — better than the normal personal loan rate but still not exactly cheap money. Further details from NatWest.

## Maintenance

Divorce is generally a traumatic experience, made worse by the nagging-over money. The situation is not eased by the complicated tax situation after a marriage breaks up.

A useful booklet covering the knotty problems associated with tax and maintenance payments is available from Oyez. It gives examples showing how to calculate the best arrangement in various circumstances.

The book is not cheap — £5.95 — but the consequences of getting things wrong and setting up maintenance arrangements which are not "tax efficient" is very high. This is also an area where some solicitors are less than competent.

The booklet, *Tax on Maintenance Payments*, by Donald Williams and Joel Newman is available from Oyez, Norwich House, 11/13 Norwich Street, London EC4A 1AB.

## Town and Country

Town and Country Building Society is offering 11 per cent on its one month's notice account, not the rate published last week.

No claims discounts of up to 40 per cent are available on a new SENTRY motor cycle insurance policy, for those who manage to avoid accidents. The discount is 15 per cent after one year, 25 per cent at the end of the second year and 30 per cent in the third year, rising to a maximum of 40 per cent in the fourth year. New policy holders qualify for a 15 per cent no claims discount, if they can prove an accident-free record.

## Bank Base Rates

ABN Bank	15 1/4%
Barclays	15 1/4%
BCCI	15 1/4%
Consolidated Crds.	15 1/4%
C. Hoare & Co.	15 1/4%
Lloyds Bank	15 1/4%
Midland Bank	15 1/4%
Nat Westminster	15 1/4%
TSB	15 1/4%
Williams and Glyn's	15 1/4%

\* 7 day deposit on savings of £5,000 and over, 15 1/4% over £50,000 12 1/4%.

## M. J. H. Nightingale &amp; Co. Limited

27/28 Grosvenor Lane London EC3R 8EB Telephone 01-621 1212

## The Over-the-Counter Market

1980/81	High	Low	Company	Price	Ch'ge	Open	Close	Yr	Actual	P/E	Full	Yield
114	100	ABN Fdgs 10% CULS	109	-1	10.0	9.2	-	-	-	-	-	-
76	39	Alpsprng Group	67	-7	7.0	10.6	-	14.7	-	-	-	-
52	21	Arctique & Rhodes	43	-4.3	10.0	3.6	-	8.1	-	-	-	-
200	97	Barton Hill	193	-9.7	5.0	9.4	-	11.4	-	-	-	-
126	88	Deborah Services	58	-5.5	5.6	4.9	-	9.2	-	-	-	-
110	39	Frank Horsell	120	-6.4	5.3	10.8	-	26.1	-	-	-	-
110	49	Frederick Parker	60	-1.7	2.8	26.1	-	-	-	-	-	-
102	93	IPC	49	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
113	59	Jackson Group	98	-7.0	7.1	7.2	-	10.9	-	-	-	-
130	103	James Burrough	110	-8.7	7.9	8.0	-	10.1	-	-	-	-
334	244	Robert Jenkins	288	-2	31.3	10.9	-	10.2	-	-	-	-
59	50	Scrutton "A"	54	-1	5.3	9.8	-	7.7	-	-	-	-
224	181	Torday Limited	181	-15.1	8.3	7.0	-	12.0	-	-	-	-
23	8	Twinlock Ord	14	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
90	68	Twinlock 15% ULS	77	-15.0	21.1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
56	33	Unilock Holdings	34	-3.0	8.8	6.1	-	10.3	-	-	-	-
103	81	Walter Alexander	84	-6.4	7.6	5.5	-	9.8	-	-	-	-
253	181	W. S. Yeates	219	-1	13.1	6.0	-	8.4	-	-	-	-

Edited by LORNA BOURKE

FINANCIAL NEWS

# NCC's deal with Simplicity is off

The £50m all-share reverse takeover bid by Mr Graham Ferguson Lacey's NCC Energy group for cash-rich Simplicity Patterns of the United States is off.

New York stock market share dealer Mr Carl Icahn of Baywater Realty & Capital Corporation and with a bid of \$11.50 for each Simplicity share to take his 13 per cent holding to 30 per cent, effectively blocking the merger which needed the consent of two thirds of the shareholders.

Mr Icahn said nearly two months ago that he was studying plans to make an offer himself, a move Mr Lacey dismissed as having little credit-

bility. Mr Lacey told shareholders at NCC's annual meeting a few days later: "This is the first time I have seen a shareholder give notice of a bid. I will consider it credible when we have a bid before us."

The Simplicity deal which would have given NCC about £47m cash, was said to be worth around 170p to NCC shareholders. Yesterday morning Mr Lacey called a halt to dealings at 90p while he made the announcement that the deal was off. The latter resumed 5p lower at 85p.

It is understood that Mr Icahn went to a New York bank earlier this week and borrowed about \$21m (£12m) to tender for Simplicity stock at \$11.50 a



Mr Graham Ferguson Lacey, chairman of NCC Energy.

## Shares of Finlan fall as bid talks fail

By Margaret Pagano

Shares in John Finlan, the Cheshire-based builder and developer, fell 23p to 143p in late dealings last night as the group announced that talks with a possible bidder had broken down.

Mr John Finlan, chairman, said the talks had been called off because the unnamed suitor had failed to offer a price that could be recommended to shareholders. Talks had been going on since July, but it was only at the beginning of October that the group announced that negotiations would be completed in six weeks' time. Then Mr Finlan said the outcome depended only on money. At 143p the group is valued at £425,000.

Speculation in the City on the mystery bidder was still putting McLeod Russell, the tea plantation group, as its favourite. McLeod directors were not available last night. They declined to comment on the matter earlier in October. Finlan recently released first-half figures showing a 13.8 per cent rise in pretax profits to £307,000 and a doubled dividend of 4.29p a share. In 1980, profits were £513,000 before tax.

## Profits at gravel firm fall sharply

Pretax profits of the Hovingham Group—the gravel-to-waste disposal concern—being taken over by Tarmac Roadstone—slumped from £1.4m to £465,000 for the first six months of 1981, according to the formal offer document published yesterday. In 1980 Hovingham made £2.2m before tax.

The document also disclosed that the insurance broking business of Hovingham, which was on the point of being sold to the Needler family trusts for £1.5, has attracted the interest of another, unnamed buyer.

In the six months to June, Hovingham's turnover was £35m against £37.9m. The trading surplus came to £4.9m, compared with £5.8m, and earnings per share were 0.82p, against 4.53p. The group is not paying an interim dividend.

The offer document contains a letter from Mr Christopher Needler, the Hovingham chairman, recommending acceptance of the offer.

In his letter Mr Needler says that Tarmac Roadstone had been willing to sell Hovingham's insurance business, Hovingham Insurance Brokers, to Needler family trusts for £1.5m.

## Fortnum & Mason reduces loss

In the 28 weeks to August 15, Fortnum and Mason, who owns the store of the same name in London's Piccadilly, made a trading loss of £306,000, compared with a loss of £362,000 for the first 26 weeks of the preceding year. But interest receivable fell from £234,000 to £183,000 and the loss at the pretax level was slightly reduced, from £128,000 to £123,000.

With tax recoverable of £186,000, against £121,000, there is a net profit of £63,000, against a net loss of £7,000.

Declaring an unchanged interim dividend of 5p gross a share, the chairman, Mr G. H. Weston, reports that given the uncertainties, it is impossible to forecast the year's outcome. But the board believes trading results will continue to improve.

## Television South

Television South, the new contractor for the South and South East regions, yesterday launched its offer for subscription shares. Henry Ansbacher, the group's merchant bankers, are offering 6.02 million ordinary 10p shares and £1.88m unsecured loan stock at 14p per cent, rising to 20 per cent from November 1984.

## Christie-Tyler

Christie-Tyler has acquired for an undisclosed sum the rights to most of the upholstery products previously manufactured by Harris Lebus from the receiver, together with the trade name and goodwill of Lebus and certain related stocks.

## Grampian Television

In the half-year to August 31, Grampian Television's pretax profits fell from £288,000 to £256,000, after provision for Exchange Levy of £16,000, compared with £114,000 in 1980. Tax is down from £155,000 to £119,000, so net profits are virtually unchanged at £137,000, against £133,000. Turnover rose from £3.3m to £3.6m.

## Henry Ansbacher

In July of this year, Henry Ansbacher & Co. the largest operating subsidiary of Henry Ansbacher Holdings, was recognized by the Secretary of State for Trade as a banking company under Schedule 8 of the Companies Act, 1948. The group will

## Moss beats forecast

Moss Engineering's pretax profits for the year to August 31, at £656,000, are comfortably ahead of the £600,000 forecast at the time of the July rights issue. At the same time, Moss has carried through a major reorganization. Pretax profits for 1979-80 were £706,000. Trading profits reached a best-ever £1.54m (against £1.47m), but interest charges jumped from £513,000 to £788,000. Turnover rose by 11 per cent to £16.7m. The UK recession meant a static home sales performance, but exports jumped by 35 per cent to £5m. As forecast, the total dividend is held at 8.5p gross.

**Japan's economic performance**  
remarkable, says OECD

**Japan Forecast to Surpass U.S. in Per Capita Income**

**Malaysia: Economic Growth and Political Stability**

**Singapore Economy Grew 10.3% in Half**

**Japan's surplus with EEC shows steep growth**

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**Singapore: ASEAN's Most Impressive Economy**

**Japanese Textile Exports Experience Surprise Boom**

# JAPAN AND PACIFIC

## First public offer of units in National Westminster Japanese and Pacific Growth Trust.

The spectacular growth of the economies of Japan and the general Pacific Basin is evident to us all in the UK. You have only to drive a car, listen to Hi-Fi, watch Video, TV, or wear a digital watch to be reminded of Far Eastern expertise in high technology and mass production.

Of all the industrial economies Japan's record of growth over the last 30 years has been unrivalled by any of her major competitors. This success is reflected in a stock market that has more than doubled in the last decade. Similarly, excellent growth rates have occurred in Japan's adjacent Pacific area, namely Hong Kong, Malaysia and Singapore.

In the 1980's as Japan and the Pacific area increases its technological lead across a wide range of products the economy is expected to continue to capitalise on its proven strengths:

- \* A flexible highly motivated labour force.
- \* Aggressive marketing.
- \* Export orientated Companies proving able to identify and build new markets worldwide.
- \* Growth conscious Governments.
- \* Companies which have historically concentrated on capital reinvestment thus ensuring sound future growth.
- \* Low inflation—sound currencies.

In all, prospects for Japan and the Pacific Basin in the coming decade appear to be among the best in the world.

The prime objective is maximum long term capital growth. Capital appreciation is foreseen as the trust's major objective. Consequently, income will be of minor consideration.

The Managers believe that the Far East has substantial potential for long term economic growth and that this will be reflected in the growth of profits and dividends of individual companies and thereby in their share ratings. In some countries the factors underlying the last economic growth still hold good while in others the discoveries of natural resources provide potential for future developments. In the shorter term the Far East is likely to record a higher growth against a background of increasing demand, higher levels of world trade, and lessening dependency on imported oil.

The new National Westminster Japanese and Pacific Growth Trust will aim to benefit directly from this dynamic situation.

The Managers believe that an investment in overseas securities through the new National Westminster Japanese and Pacific Growth Trust, is currently especially attractive, whilst there are no UK Government exchange controls prevailing on investments abroad.

Distribution of income from units (which should be regarded as of secondary priority for such a trust) may be reinvested into the trust. In view of the specialised nature of this trust which aims primarily for capital appreciation, the Managers strongly recommend to investors that income distributions should be automatically reinvested in the trust.

You should remember that the price of units and the income from them can go down as well as up.

**Additional Information**

Applications will not be acknowledged but certificates will be issued within 42 days.

Distributions of net income will be made half yearly on 20 April and 20 October. The first distribution of income for investments made now will be on 20 April 1982.

The offer price of 50p per unit gives an estimated gross starting yield of £0.37p p.a. (This is equivalent to a net yield of £0.26p p.a.)

After the close of this offer units can always be bought at the prevailing offer price. The current offer and bid prices and estimated gross yield will be published daily in the press.

If you wish, you can buy units through your own bank, stockbroker, solicitor or accountant. Remuneration is payable to qualified agents and the rates are available on request. The offer price of units includes an initial charge of 5%. Thereafter a half yearly charge of 0.375% plus VAT of the value of the Trust is deducted from the gross income of the Trust to cover administration costs, although the Trust Deed permits this to be increased to 0.5% + VAT. To sell units simply return your certificate(s) duly endorsed and you will receive the cash value within 10 days, based on the bid price ruling on the day of receipt.

The management company is National Westminster Unit Trust Managers Limited.

The directors are: Viscount Sandon T.D. Chairman, A.H.A. Dibbs, I.E.G. Emms, P.A. Gills, J.A. Green, M.H. Lovett, J.B. Sherriff, L.E. Thomas, N.H. Villiers and J.H. Webb. National Westminster Unit Trust Managers Limited, is a member of the Unit Trust Association. Investment Managers: County Bank Limited. (J.B. Sherriff). The trustee is Royal Exchange Assurance. This is a "wider range" trustee investment. This offer is not available to residents of the Republic of Ireland.

**A proven record: Investment Management by County Bank**

The investments will be professionally managed by County Bank the wholly owned merchant banking subsidiary of the National Westminster Bank Group. County Bank has a highly successful track record through its active direction of investment, pension and unit trust funds and currently has over £2 billion under its management. County Bank will be able to draw upon the National Westminster Group's strong and local knowledge of the area.

**How to invest now**

Simply fill in the coupon below or alternatively take it to any branch of National Westminster Bank. The minimum investment is £500. This is equivalent to 1,000 units in the trust at the price of 50p. This price is fixed until 26 November for new applications.

**National Westminster Japanese and Pacific Growth Trust at a fixed price of 50.0p per unit.**

Estimated gross starting yield of £0.37p p.a. (This is equivalent to a net yield of £0.26p p.a.)

Send to National Westminster Unit Trust Managers Limited, 161 Cheapside, London EC2V 8EU. Telephone Enquiries: 01-506 6060, extension: 2479.

☐ I wish to invest £ (minimum initial investment of £500).

☐ In National Westminster Japanese and Pacific Growth Trust at a fixed price of 50.0p per unit.

☐ I enclose my/our remittance payable to National Westminster Unit Trust Managers Limited (offer closes 26 November 1981).

Surname/Mr/Ms/Miss \_\_\_\_\_  
First Full Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
I am/We are over the age of 18.  
Signature(s) \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Tick here for automatic re-investment of income.

For office use only

National Westminster Unit Trust Managers Limited, registered in England. No. 90730. Resident Office: 41 Lombury, London EC2P 2BP.

Call 7-days notice

US dollar	11% p.c.	12 p.c.
Yen	2% p.c.	2% p.c.
D. Mark	7% p.c.	8 p.c.
French Franc	11 p.c.	11% p.c.
Swiss Franc	4 p.c.	4% p.c.

\*Rates quoted by Midland Bank—other banks may differ.



The new Honda CX 500 "turbo" motor cycle. Turbo-charged engines give much greater power than conventional engines of the same capacity

# Motor cycle puzzle for the insurers

Motor cycle enthusiasts will soon have something new to cover as Honda is expected to launch the first production turbocharged motorcycle into the United Kingdom in December. It has a 500cc engine, but is expected to have the power of an 1100cc machine, and will undoubtedly come top of many a Christmas present list. But being able to afford one will be one problem and insuring it another.

A turbocharger gives a motorcycle much more power for a given engine size than a conventional power plant of comparable capacity. And as most insurance companies calculate the size of the premiums by the cubic capacity of a motor cycle engine these new machines are expected to create problems in insurance calculations.

Specialist insurers Devit D.A. refuse to insure turbo-charged machines. General Accident say that it has not yet reached any decision and although Norwich Union is prepared to give cover, it stresses that it is watching the situation very carefully.

The British Motorcycling Federation believes that turbocharged engines could become the norm and expects that these machines will prompt companies to rate motorcycles on their power output and other factors and not just engine size. This, it says, would level out a lot of the disparity in motorcycle insurance by putting a higher premium on super-powered machines and reducing costs for work-horse commuter bikes.

Motor cyclists form only 6 per cent of all road transport but are responsible for nearly 20 per cent of road accident deaths, so it is easy to appreciate why only a small number of companies are now prepared to insure machines.

And figures from the British Insurance Association suggest that over an extended period a motorcyclist is some eight times more likely to have an accident than a car driver.

While a number of big insurance companies now only regard their motorcycle accounts as a "service" to customers, the Norwich Union and Devit D.A. specialists in the field and take a commanding share of the market.

This motorcyclist would seem to be faced with a narrow choice of insurers. But increasingly, both motorcycle manufacturers and other bodies have begun schemes of their own resulting in a much wider range of policies, so it will pay to shop around.

The youngest (and often keenest) sector of the market is worst hit. Premiums for 17 year olds are particularly high as all companies rate them as a very high risk.

Norwich Union, for example, calculate that a rider aged between 17 and 19 on a 350cc machine with a full comprehensive policy would stand a 50 per cent chance of making a claim in any year.

Most teenagers ride machines of up to 250cc which is the maximum allowed on a provisional licence—and most companies quote a premium for a 17 year old on a 250cc machine of over £400.

At the moment there seems little that the young motor-

cyclist can do about it, but there is the consolation that premiums begin to tumble very fast as soon as he is into his twenties. For example, Norwich Union says that the premium for a 25 year-old on a 350cc machine would be four times lower than that quoted to a teenager.

But owners of high capacity machines will also face insurance headaches.

Norwich Union are prepared to quote premiums on high capacity machines, but as the same time do not offer any "no claims" discount, so the experienced enthusiasts might be better off looking at one of the several specialist schemes on the market geared to the mature rider.

The British Motorcycling Federation, for example, offer an excellent policy for their members (annual subscription cost is £5 a year). The initial premium is comparable to other companies, but the advantage is that they offer up to a 40 per cent discount for four years no-claims, plus another 10 per cent discount for proficiency holders.

Owners of Japanese motorcycles, in particular, could find it more economical to join an insurance scheme arranged by a particular manufacturer. Devit D.A. rate a Kawasaki or Suzuki higher than the more pedestrian "MZ" with a similar engine size as it has found that the relatively expensive Japanese motorcycles are more accident prone.

Kawasaki has found a way round this organizing a special scheme with the Norwich Union through Charlesworth Motor Policies, for owners of their machines.

Patrick Donovan

## Currencies

### The yen to be another front runner?

Buy the yen and the Swiss franc for the long-term view—say away from the middle surrounding the short-term dollar markets after Thursday's conflicting figures about the American economy. That was the view of the pundits yesterday.

Bankers report that buying of the yen seems to be lagging behind the trade figures. Sooner or later, many believe, the exporters will have to come out with their orders.

Other positive points for the yen are that foreign buyers of Japanese stocks have emerged again after the huge fall on the Tokyo stock market and that members of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries are making complimentary noises about the Japanese economy again.

The view on the Swiss franc continues to be that the tight money policies being pursued by the Swiss government to bring down the level of inflation (nearly 8 per cent) will bring the franc back to star status. Even if the Germans relax their interest rates, it is believed, the Swiss will not follow.

Meanwhile, in the United States Henry Kaufman of Salomon Bros, the market chief, says "now" says that American interest rates will not start climbing again for some time—say, 12 months rather than six. This is because the American government seems to want to bring interest rates down as fast as possible to stop the recession worsening.

That view is good for American shares, but not for the dollar.

Sally White

## Your money market best buys

**Banks**

Current account — no interest paid. Deposit accounts — Lloyd's 13.5 per cent. Nat. West, Midland & Barclays, 14 per cent, seven days notice required for withdrawals. For sums of £10,000 or more rate fixed for the term.

**Fixed-term deposits** — 1 month, 14% per cent; 3 months, 14% per cent; 6 months, 14% per cent; 12 months, 15% per cent.

**Money Funds**

Simco 7-day fund, 15.42 per cent; UDT Average Rate Deposit Fund, 16% per cent; Tyndall 7-day fund, 15.5 per cent; Simco dollar fund, 13.8 per cent; interest paid without deduction of tax. Further details from Simco (01-236 0233), Tyndall (01-0272 32241), UDT (scheme now closed to new investment).

**Building Societies**

Ordinary share accounts — 9.75 per cent; 1 to 5 years, 12 per cent; 5.5 per cent and 2 p.c. over the BSA recommended ordinary share rate depending on the term. Regular savings schemes — 1.25 p.c. over ordinary share rate. Rates quoted above are those most commonly offered. Individual building societies may quote different rates. Interest on all accounts is payable net of basic rate tax, not reclaimable by non-taxpayers.

**Local Authority Yearling Bonds**

12-month fixed rate investments, interest 15.5 p.c. paid net of basic rate tax (can be reclaimed by non-taxpayers), minimum investment £1,000, purchased through stockbroker or bank.

**Local Authority Town Hall Bonds**

Fixed term, fixed rate investments, interest quoted gross (basic rate tax deducted at source reclaimable by non-taxpayers). Best offers: 1 year, Knowsley 14% p.c.; 4 years, North Tyneside 14% p.c.; 5 years, Rydburn 15 p.c.; 10 years, Wycombe 14% p.c. Further details available from Chartered Institute of Public Finance Loans Bureau (01-828 7855, ext. 3 p.m.). See also, on Prestel no 24808.

**National Savings Bank**

Ordinary accounts — interest 5 p.c. first £70 of interest tax-free. Investment Account — 14.5 p.c. interest paid without deduction of tax, one month's notice of withdrawal, maximum investment £200,000.

**National Savings Index-Linked Certificates**

Maximum investment £5,000, interest tax-free and linked to changes in the retail prices index. 4 p.c. bonus if held full five years to maturity. Cash value of £100 certificates purchased in November, 1976, £191.43 including 4 p.c. bonus.

**National Savings Certificates — 23rd Issue**

Return totally free of all taxes, equivalent to an annual interest rate over the five year term of 10.5 p.c., maximum investment £5,000, on sale from November 5.

**Finance for Industry**

Fixed-term, fixed-rate investments of between 3 and 10 years, interest paid half-yearly without deduction of tax: 3-4 years, 13% p.c.; 5-6 years, 13% p.c.; 7 years, 13% p.c.; 8-9 years, 14 p.c.; 10 years, 14% p.c. Further information from FFI, 91 Waterloo Road, London SE1 (01-928 7822).

**Finance House Deposits (UDT)**

Fixed-term, fixed-rate deposits, interest paid without deduction of tax. For sums of £10,000 or more: 1 month, 15 p.c.; 3 months, 15% p.c.; 6 months, 14% p.c.; 12 months, 14% p.c.

**Foreign Currency Deposits\***

Interest paid without deduction of tax.

	Call	7-days notice
US dollar	11% p.c.	12 p.c.
Yen	2% p.c.	2% p.c.
D. Mark	7% p.c.	8 p.c.
French Franc	11 p.c.	11% p.c.
Swiss Franc	4 p.c.	4% p.c.

\*Rates quoted by Midland Bank—other banks may differ.

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**TAX PLANNING AND THE OWNERSHIP OF THOROUGHBRED RACEHORSES**  
by Richard Hunn BCom, FCA,  
Taxation Adviser to the TBA

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## Stock markets

هكذا من العمل

# Stock Exchange Prices

## Dull close to account

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings Begin, Monday. Dealings End, Nov 20, 5 Contango Day, Nov 23 Settlement Day, Nov 30

Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days

BRITISH FUNDS				COMMERCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL				T-Z			
High	Low	Price	Chgs	High	Low	Price	Chgs	High	Low	Price	Chgs
SHORTS				A-B				T-Z			
980	975	980	5	1000	995	1000	5	1000	995	1000	5
975	970	975	5	995	990	995	5	995	990	995	5
970	965	970	5	990	985	990	5	990	985	990	5
965	960	965	5	985	980	985	5	985	980	985	5
960	955	960	5	980	975	980	5	980	975	980	5
955	950	955	5	975	970	975	5	975	970	975	5
950	945	950	5	970	965	970	5	970	965	970	5
945	940	945	5	965	960	965	5	965	960	965	5
940	935	940	5	960	955	960	5	960	955	960	5
935	930	935	5	955	950	955	5	955	950	955	5
930	925	930	5	950	945	950	5	950	945	950	5
925	920	925	5	945	940	945	5	945	940	945	5
920	915	920	5	940	935	940	5	940	935	940	5
915	910	915	5	935	930	935	5	935	930	935	5
910	905	910	5	930	925	930	5	930	925	930	5
905	900	905	5	925	920	925	5	925	920	925	5
900	895	900	5	920	915	920	5	920	915	920	5
895	890	895	5	915	910	915	5	915	910	915	5
890	885	890	5	910	905	910	5	910	905	910	5
885	880	885	5	905	900	905	5	905	900	905	5
880	875	880	5	900	895	900	5	900	895	900	5
875	870	875	5	895	890	895	5	895	890	895	5
870	865	870	5	890	885	890	5	890	885	890	5
865	860	865	5	885	880	885	5	885	880	885	5
860	855	860	5	880	875	880	5	880	875	880	5
855	850	855	5	875	870	875	5	875	870	875	5
850	845	850	5	870	865	870	5	870	865	870	5
845	840	845	5	865	860	865	5	865	860	865	5
840	835	840	5	860	855	860	5	860	855	860	5
835	830	835	5	855	850	855	5	855	850	855	5
830	825	830	5	850	845	850	5	850	845	850	5
825	820	825	5	845	840	845	5	845	840	845	5
820	815	820	5	840	835	840	5	840	835	840	5
815	810	815	5	835	830	835	5	835	830	835	5
810	805	810	5	830	825	830	5	830	825	830	5
805	800	805	5	825	820	825	5	825	820	825	5
800	795	800	5	820	815	820	5	820	815	820	5
795	790	795	5	815	810	815	5	815	810	815	5
790	785	790	5	810	805	810	5	810	805	810	5
785	780	785	5	805	800	805	5	805	800	805	5
780	775	780	5	800	795	800	5	800	795	800	5
775	770	775	5	795	790	795	5	795	790	795	5
770	765	770	5	790	785	790	5	790	785	790	5
765	760	765	5	785	780	785	5	785	780	785	5
760	755	760	5	780	775	780	5	780	775	780	5
755	750	755	5	775	770	775	5	775	770	775	5
750	745	750	5	770	765	770	5	770	765	770	5
745	740	745	5	765	760	765	5	765	760	765	5
740	735	740	5	760	755	760	5	760	755	760	5
735	730	735	5	755	750	755	5	755	750	755	5
730	725	730	5	750	745	750	5	750	745	750	5
725	720	725	5	745	740	745	5	745	740	745	5
720	715	720	5	740	735	740	5	740	735	740	5
715	710	715	5	735	730	735	5	735	730	735	5
710	705	710	5	730	725	730	5	730	725	730	5
705	700	705	5	725	720	725	5	725	720	725	5
700	695	700	5	720	715	720	5	720	715	720	5
695	690	695	5	715	710	715	5	715	710	715	5
690	685	690	5	710	705	710	5	710	705	710	5
685	680	685	5	705	700	705	5	705	700	705	5
680	675	680	5	700	695	700	5	700	695	700	5
675	670	675	5	695	690	695	5	695	690	695	5
670	665	670	5	690	685	690	5	690	685	690	5
665	660	665	5	685	680	685	5	685	680	685	5
660	655	660	5	680	675	680	5	680	675	680	5
655	650	655	5	675	670	675	5	675	670	675	5
650	645	650	5	670	665	670	5	670	665	670	5
645	640	645	5	665	660	665	5	665	660	665	5
640	635	640	5	660	655	660	5	660	655	660	5
635	630	635	5	655	650	655	5	655	650	655	5
630	625	630	5	650	645	650	5	650	645	650	5
625	620	625	5	645	640	645	5	645	640	645	5
620	615	620	5	640	635	640	5	640	635	640	5
615	610	615	5	635	630	635	5	635	630	635	5
610	605	610	5	630	625	630	5	630	625	630	5
605	600	605	5	625	620	625	5	625	620	625	5
600	595	600	5	620	615	620	5	620	615	620	5
595	590	595	5	615	610	615	5	615	610	615	5
590	585	590	5	610	605	610	5	610	605	610	5
585	580	585	5	605	600	605	5	605	600	605	5
580	575	580	5	600	595	600	5	600	595	600	5
575	570	575	5	595	590	595	5	595	590	595	5
570	565	570	5	590	585	590	5	590	585	590	5
565	560	565	5	585	580	585	5	585	580	585	5
560	555	560	5	580	575	580	5	580	575	580	5
555	550</										



## Piggott for Laurel win No 4 on Cairn Rouge

**CKET**  
**WANTON**  
rs. £19.50 0002163497





